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Kent on Sunday

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Water supply pollution fear as 'fracking' ruled safe by govt experts

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DOMESTIC water supplies face contamination, claim campaigners angry at a government report that has declared 'fracking' safe.

They argue that recommendations by a panel of experts could lead to the "dangerous" technique of hydraulic fracturing being used to extract gas at sites in the east and west of the county.

In a report for the Government published this week, experts said the method of shale gas extraction – which triggered two earth tremors near Blackpool last year – should continue as long as stringent measures are in place.

Two sites have been highlighted in Kent as potential areas for exploratory drilling: one at Woodnesborough, near Sandwich; and the other at Cowden, near Sevenoaks.

There are fears if bore holes are drilled it will lead to the eventual use of fracking, which involves blasting water and chemicals underground at high pressure to break apart rocks and release shale gas – a cheap option of ensuring energy supplies.

Experts argued the method carried only a "very small" risk of causing earthquakes.

It is likely to pave the way for further use of fracking, albeit with a set of government regulations in place, including seismic monitoring.

But dismayed campaigners said earthquakes were not the main concern, arguing that pumping chemicals into the ground could contaminate water supplies.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said: "An ordinary individual cannot randomly pollute ground or water

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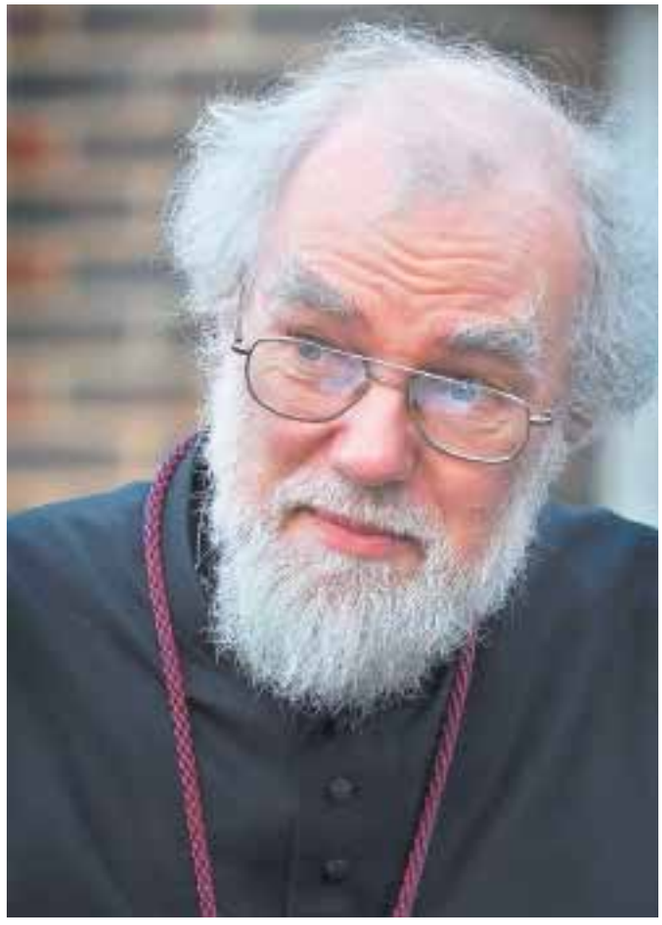

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WHO SHOULD BE ARCHBISHOP

CALLING: The search has begun to find Dr Rowan Williams' successor – **SEE INSIDE**

TRANSPORT

Estuary 'worst spot' for airport

AVIATION experts have cast doubt on the feasibility of a Thames Estuary airport. The boss of Birmingham International Airport argued a single hub airport could not answer Britain's aviation needs, and the air control service said the estuary was the "worst spot" for an airport. **PAGE 5**

CRIME

Man plotted to kill mum-in-law

A MORTGAGE fraudster has been jailed after being caught trying to arrange the murder of his mother in law. The man hired a private detective to find his wife and children, who fled the family home, and then turned his anger on his in-law who he blamed for the break up of his marriage. **PAGE 13**

SPORT

Money won't buy us success

MONEY doesn't buy success, according to the chief executive of Kent CCC. Jamie Clifford said: "I think bold statements of ambition are easy to make and often just wrong, I don't think money buys success, it comes back to the individual players wanting to be the best players." **PAGE 71**

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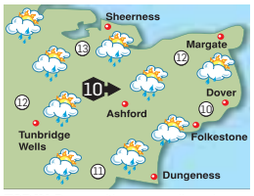

TODAY: Breezy with sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Brisk westerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F). **TONIGHT:** dry with clear spells. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.21	6.5	12.42	6.4
Margate	01.20	4.6	13.40	4.5
St Mary's	06.09	5.4	18.24	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 17C	Min 6C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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EDUCATION COMMENT

An alarming rise in number of children not getting their primary school choice

By Peter J Read
Independent Education Adviser

ON THE surface, Kent primary school infant class placements, which took place at the end of March, look well with a healthy 95 per cent of children in Kent being offered one of their three choices, similar to last year.

However, looking beneath the surface, a much more worrying picture emerges because of increased numbers in some areas, with the number of children being allocated a school they hadn't chosen rising from 564 to 818 in two years, a frightening rise of 45 per cent.

Analysis of the figures shows a sharp contrast between most of west Kent and most of east Kent and between urban and rural areas. Maidstone is the most difficult area, with more than 100 children allocated to schools they did not apply for and no places free.

Other problem areas include Tunbridge Wells with just 16 places left free out of the 920 available, and 75 children having none of their choices.

Sevenoaks has 94 children allocated, seven places left free; urban Dartford, 71 children allocated and seven places left free; Ramsgate, 65 children allocated, eight places free, all in Bromstone Primary school in Broadstairs; Folkestone, 43 children allocated, six left free; and the area around Faversham 37 children allocated.

Kent County Council, in a confidential analysis of issues produced in 2009, identified major problems for 2011 entry in Dartford, Gravesham, Thanet and Tunbridge Wells, some of these other issues being masked by rural parts of the districts having spare capacity.

Sadly, little was done to alleviate the problems at a time when finances were easier.

What is clear is that although Kent's Primary Strategy of 2006 has a policy that there should be between five-seven per cent surplus capacity in an area, it has not planned to meet this policy. Where additional places have been added, too often these are last-minute decisions and often in inappropriate schools.

What we are seeing is an unwritten change of policy from trying to meet parental preferences, to a minimalist offering to children of a school somewhere, no matter how suitable.

Riverhead Infant School in Sevenoaks has soared to the top of the oversubscription table, turning away 54 first choices with nearby Sevenoaks Primary School turning away 44 children, in fourth place.

In between come Madginford Park in Maidstone, and Priory Infants, Ramsgate.

In fifth place comes St James CofE VA Infant School, in Tunbridge Wells, then: Slade Primary, Tonbridge; Sandgate Primary, Folkestone; West Hill Primary, Dartford; St John's Catholic Primary, Gravesend; Joyden's Wood Infants, Dartford; St Peter's Methodist, Canterbury; Holy Trinity and St John's CofE Primary, Margate; St John's CofE Primary, Tunbridge Wells; St Stephen's Infant, Canterbury; Ethelbert Road Primary, Faversham; and St Mildred's Infants, Broadstairs. All these schools turned away 30 or more first choices.

At the other end of the table, 14 schools, nearly all in east Kent, have more than half their places left empty. Three of these have all admitted fewer than 50 per cent of their capacity for each of the last three years.

How can they remain viable?

Closing such schools would provide extra provision in places of greatest need.

■ **Further information on all the key pressure points at www.kentadvice.co.uk.**

Government vows to monitor all drilling 'extremely closely'

Continued from front page

supplies, but companies engaged in hydraulic fracking can do so with impunity, even though this seems to be a breach of environmental law.

"Local communities facing hydraulic fracking should consider legal action as pollution of the environment is not permitted under UK law and the Government's position on fracking can be seen as illegal."

Fears over the use of fracking in east Kent were raised in January when county councillors approved plans to allow Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd to drill an exploratory bore hole on land between the A257 and A256 north of Woodnesborough to test for shale gas.

The Welsh company insisted it would be a simple test of coal and shale, but activists said it was likely to be the first step towards fracking.

And in west Kent, energy firm Caudrilla Resources – the company blamed for causing the two earthquakes in Lancashire – outlined a site as a potential area for shale gas drilling.

Earlier this year, the firm told KoS that while there were no immediate plans to use the controversial extraction method at the land in Cowden, it would not rule out the possibility of future exploration. The company has a licence to explore for gas at a well on the site, which was drilled in the 1990s.

A Caudrilla spokesman said permission for testing had been extended "many times" and the firm had permission to extract shale gas using fracking.

Protestors claim it causes contamination of water supplies, flammable tap water, greenhouse gas emissions, and earthquakes.

Mr Dawe said: "With hydraulic fracking threatened at Woodnesborough and in the Cowden-Edenbridge area and coal gasification in the Thames Estuary off Medway, there is a significant danger that Kent will be subjected to further water and air pollution to add to current problems.

"Worst of all, we are still not being allowed to know what chemicals are being pumped into the ground during hydraulic fracking."

Last year, a Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into water contamination found no evidence that fracking posed a direct risk to underground water aquifers.

But the Government vowed to monitor drilling activity "extremely closely".

The method is already banned in South Africa and France, but has proved popular in parts of America, despite reports of water contamination.

Jamie Weir, spokesman for Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, said the organisation was "extremely concerned" that government experts were recommending fracking as safe.

"The report that was published only looks at the seismic issues surrounding fracking and there are many other problems that need a thorough examination," he said.

"One of our biggest concerns are the implications that fracking could have on water in Kent.

"We are already a highly water-stressed area and the fracking process itself can take between seven million and 11 million litres of water for a single well.

"Where will this water come from? Equally, where will the water, and associated chemicals used in the fracking process go? There is a real danger that it could potentially lead to groundwater pollution which would be extremely damaging to Kent."

Campaigners also stressed that by marketing shale gas as a cheap option of reducing emissions it could be taken up as an alternative to renewable energy.

A spokesman for Campaign Against Climate Change said: "A study suggests that – due to relatively high rates of inadvertent methane release – shale gas is little better, or even worse, than coal in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, especially as measured over a shorter rather than longer timescale."

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COURT

Trio deny murder after fire killed three generations of same family

By Marijke Cox
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THE trial of three people accused of killing a mother, her child and her father in a house fire has started.

Used car salesman Danai Muhammadi, 24, his girlfriend, unemployed Emma Smith, 21, and doorman Farhad Mahmud, 35, are charged with murdering Muhammadi's estranged wife Melissa Crook, 20, their 15-month-old son Noah and Melissa's father Mark, 48.

They are also charged with the attempted murder of Melissa's brother Bohdan, 21, and her mum Amanda, who both escaped the fire at the property in Chatham Hill, Chatham, in the early hours of September 10, 2011.

Smith, of Barley Lea, Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, has an additional charge of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life.

All three deny the charges.

Muhammadi, of Britannia Street, Coventry, Smith and Mahmud, of Kensington House, Fernhill Road, Maidstone, spoke only to confirm their names at Maidstone Crown Court on the first day of the trial.

It is expected to last four weeks with phone records, CCTV images, automatic number plate recognition images and more than 70 prosecution witnesses presented to the jury.

The trial will be presided over by High Court Judge Sir Nigel Sweeney.

The prosecution team is being led by barrister Mark Dennis QC, who has worked on high-profile cases including the Securitas robbery and the case of M25 rapist Antoni Imiela.

SAD LOSS: 20-year-old Melissa Crook and her baby son Noah died in the house fire which engulfed her home last year. Her father Mark also died from burns he received in the blaze which was allegedly caused by Melissa's ex-husband Danai Muhammadi and two accomplices

Melissa Crook and her son died at the scene of the fire in September last year.

Bodhan Crook escaped the property by jumping out of a first-floor window, breaking his hands and feet.

Melissa's parents Amanda and Mark escaped the property, but her father was left critically ill with severe burns and died six days later.

Muhammadi and Melissa married in Rochester in 2009, and moved to Coventry. The pair split up a few months later and she moved back in with her family in Kent with son Noah.

■ **Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man denies cat swing

A MAN has denied swinging a cat by its tail in a street. Riain Richards, 20, of Clements Road, Ramsgate, pleaded not guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a cat on October 29 last year. The incident involving the two-year-old cat, Mowgli, allegedly took place outside the Camden Arms pub in La Belle Alliance Square, Ramsgate. Richards appeared at Canterbury Magistrates' Court, and was released on unconditional bail until a trial date yet to be set.

Teen lied over sex attack

A POLICE investigation into a serious sexual assault in Ashford has been closed after the teenager admitted she made up the allegation. The 15-year-old, from Ashford, told police she was assaulted on February 29 by a stranger. Her allegation led to an investigation by police.

The teen was interviewed under caution on suspicion of wasting police time. After admitting she made up the incident, she received a formal reprimand.

Web porn threat to kids

CANTERBURY MP Julian Brazier is calling for more to be done to prevent children from accessing hardcore pornographic material on the internet.

He was one of 17 cross-party MPs who conducted an Independent Parliamentary Inquiry into online child protection, and said: "Our inquiry found that it is currently just too easy for children to access pornography on the internet, as well as websites depicting violence – and even promoting self-harm and anorexia in a good light. The Government should act on this."

TRANSPORT

Boost for towns hit by Pfizer as KCC agrees more high-speed funds

HIGH-speed services to Deal and Sandwich will be funded for at least another year by Kent County Council, providing another boost to the area following the closure of Pfizer.

A formal announcement is due from County Hall, but cabinet member for transport Cllr Bryan Sweetland confirmed to KoS that the authority would help subsidise the Southeastern service potentially up to 2014, when the rail franchise is renewed.

Cllr Sweetland said the number of season ticket holders using the high-speed link in the east Kent towns had grown dramatically, and this was expected to increase even more.

"We've seen passenger numbers rise from a dozen to more than 100 and that's going to grow to a couple of hundred," he said.

"The initial driver for us to subsidise the service was to support the regeneration in light of the Pfizer withdrawal.

"Confidence is growing and we took the decision to continue. I've been working with campaign group Trains4Deal and there are few things we need to tweak with the service."

The subsidy will be reduced from last year due to the increase in season ticket holders using the daily fast link, which has three trains in the morning and two returning from St Pancras in the evening.

David Foley, chief executive of the Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce and the Dover District Chamber, said the business community would benefit.

GOOD NEWS: More passengers are using service

"I'm encouraged by this support from Kent County Council," he said.

"What happened last year at Pfizer was a shock; we knew it could happen, but it happened so quickly."

He said good rail links were a crucial part of encouraging business and investment to the area and were used as part of the bid for funding and support from the Government.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys said the high-speed service cut 45 minutes off a journey which previously lasted more than two hours.

"Over the next year, I am hopeful that businesses considering setting up in the region – particularly on the Pfizer site [in Sandwich] – will recognise that east Kent is not only a superb place for their employees to live, but also within easy reach of London," she said.

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TRANSPORT

Airport plans would need 'a city the size of Manchester'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AVIATION experts have poured doubt on the feasibility of a Thames Estuary airport, adding further fuel to the fight against the controversial plans.

Chief executive of Birmingham International Airport Paul Kehoe argued that a single hub airport could not answer Britain's aviation needs, and Britain's air control service NATS (National Air Traffic Services) said the estuary was the "worst spot" to locate an airport.

World-renowned architect Lord Foster last year unveiled ambitious plans for a £50bn hub airport on the Isle of Grain, including a rail line and Thames crossing and involving the closure of Heathrow.

It followed an idea by London Mayor Boris Johnson, who suggested building a floating hub airport on reclaimed land in the estuary.

Writing for the weekly newsletter for the group An Executive View of British Travel, aviation expert Mr Kehoe said: "Heathrow already handles 70 million passengers a year. The Department for Transport estimates Britain will need space for 125 million more a year by 2030. There is no way that Heathrow, even with a third runway, can possibly answer this demand.

"And an estuary airport would require a new town the size of Manchester to cater for the workers and their families – all in a region already cited as needing five new reservoirs."

He demanded the Government's upcoming aviation review first consider how best to use existing resources such as airports in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

His comments came just as the boss of Britain's air control service NATS, Richard Deakin, voiced concern over the feasibility of the estuary plans by architect Lord Foster.

He said it was the "worst spot" to put an airport, arguing that it was directly under the convergence of arrival and departure flight paths for four of London's five airports. He said the thousands of birds in the area were a threat to planes.

Leader of Medway Council, Cllr Rodney Chambers said Lord Foster had failed to do research into the location.

"It was clear last year he hadn't done his homework as he had placed his airport on top of the LNG plant – which stores one fifth of the UK's gas – and the power station there," he said. "It was obvious he had not actually left his office and travelled from London to have a look before releasing his fantasy pie in the sky scheme.

"Now it seems he didn't even bother talking to air traffic control body, NATS, which beggars belief.

FLIGHT RISK: Lord Foster's design has been criticised for its lack of consultation with experts

"After all, their chief executive says there couldn't be a worse spot for a hub airport than the Thames estuary."

Cllr Chambers said if Lord Foster's proposal – which involves shutting Heathrow – gets off the ground, the airport would carry twice as many passengers as Heathrow.

He said: "With that in mind, I welcome Paul Kehoe's comments that the infrastructure needed for such an airport, including for more than 100,000 people and their families to move here would be unsustainable.

"The Government's consultation is due to start this summer and Medway Council, Kent County Council and other councils across Kent and Essex, as well as MPs, and the RSPB have already said they will put forward a strong argument that an estuary airport is a non-starter. I would urge others to do the same."

Lord Foster said: "We believe the economic case for the Thames hub is compelling as Britain is already losing out to expanding European hubs. Our proposal comprehensively addresses the infrastructure needed to maximise the advantages of a new airport."

■ **More news and sport at www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

'No cameras in court'

NORTH Thanet Tory MP Sir Roger Gale has attacked proposals to televise the law courts, following this week's broadcast of a judge's sentencing in a Scottish court.

He said: "This is potentially the thin end of a very undesirable wedge. This campaign, orchestrated by some television broadcasters, owes much more to entertainment and sensationalism than it does to the claimed 'promotion of democracy' and 'access to justice'."

M&S for town centre

A NEW Marks & Spencer is on its way to Sevenoaks after the high street giant signed a preliminary deal for a site to the west of Blighs Meadow.

The pre-let agreement was agreed between the retailer and Reef Estates. Reef, which owns the land along with Sevenoaks District Council, is drawing up plans to redevelop the site with a mixed-use scheme with a full M&S store, 22 flats, parking for residents and shoppers, including an underground car park, and office space.

Games fun grants offer

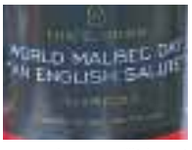
WITH fewer than 100 days to the start of the London Olympics, Kent County Council is offering funding to help local communities celebrate the 2012 Games.

The Small Grants scheme that can support local community groups to get involved with Local Leaders who help organise street parties and join the fun. More information at www.kentsport.org/london2012/small_grants.asp.

BUSINESS

'Daft' EU law leads to wine giveaway

AFTER importing almost two tonnes of special grapes from Argentina, a top Kent winemaker has been told that because of bizarre EU rules, he can't sell the resulting bottles of red – so now it's being given away.



Chapel Down in Tenterden is known for its still and sparkling wines made from grapes grown in the Garden of England.

But boss Frazer Thompson is being made to give away the bottles because he used grapes from outside the EU. And even then, he is not allowed to even call it wine.

Mr Thompson went to Argentina to help harvest the Malbec grapes. He said he wanted to experience a new grape and technique and put an English spin on one of the world's most popular wines. The result was 1,300 bottles, worth £15 each, that no-one is allowed to buy.

They are labelled World Malbec Day An English Salute. And in small letters below, it reads: "Publicity use only, not for sale."

At the vineyard, Mr Thompson said: "Daft is one of the words I have used. It is extremely frustrating when you have legislation which means this wine, which is made from grapes grown in Argentina, and made in to a wine here at Chapel Down, is not allowed to be called a wine.

"It is not a wine – it is in fact an 'alcoholic fruit-based beverage from produce sourced outside the European Union' which doesn't look great on a label. The situation is massively frustrating."

Some of the bottles will go to British restaurants owned by the Gaucho vineyards where the grapes originally came from, and some are being given away to customers who buy other bottles of Chapel Down. The rest will go to shareholders, staff, friends, and used at wine-tastings.

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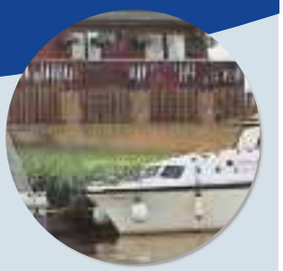

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gills police row resolved

GILLINGHAM FC's game against League Two leaders Swindon Town this weekend was back on after a stand-off between the club and police over policing costs was resolved. It was feared the game would be played behind closed doors after Medway Council issued a prohibition notice that prevented fans from attending the match until Gills paid for the policing bill. It is a huge game for both sides as victory will see Swindon crowned League Two champions.

Fish scheme dismissed

A GOVERNMENT pilot scheme allowing some inshore fishermen to catch their allocated quota of fish when they want, instead of on the current prescribed timetable, will not solve the plight of the county's fishermen says Kent Lib Dem Euro MP Sharon Bowles. She said: "While the issue of discards – the practice of throwing 'surplus' fish dead overboard – has made a splash in the media, local fishermen are still suffering because they can't catch enough fish to make a proper living."

Free opera screenings

OPERA lovers in Dover are in for a treat when the Big Screen shows performances from London's Royal Opera House next month.

La bohème is on Thursday, May 17, at 7.30pm and Falstaff is on Wednesday, May 30 at 7.30pm in Market Square. Royal Opera House creative director Deborah Bull said: "These summer big screens, now in their 25th year, are a highlight of our performing season. "

ENTERTAINMENT

Festivals promising summer sounds for every age and taste

By Chris Britcher
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IT is perhaps fitting that some of the world's most successful ageing rock stars will be pushed into the Garden of England this summer to soak up the warming sunshine of adulation.

And before they head off for a well-earned snooze, there will be the small case of receiving a cheque big enough to buy an oast house or two before they are driven at speed out of the county.

Because this summer the music festival scene in Kent is dominated by stars of a certain age. Not, of course, that there is any problem with that. After all, those with longevity have straddled generations for good reason. As organisers of one annual event know only too well.

The Hop Farm Festival has quickly established itself as the county's big-hitter. The debate over whether it is the county's best is for another day, but with veteran no-nonsense promoter Vince Power at the helm, it is not afraid to splash the cash in cornering the 'legends' market.

Thus for the three days it occupies the Paddock Wood tourist attraction between June 29 and July 1 it will bring the likes of Bob Dylan, 70; Ray Davies, 67; Peter Gabriel, 62; and even Bruce Forsyth – a mere 84. And while the likes of Suede and Primal Scream are sprinkled into the mix, they are not going to drag the average age down that dramatically. It is, however, going to drag in a lot of folk who come armed with that all important 'disposable income'.

They come, they bring their kids, they spend lots of money. In this day and age it is the festival bean counter's dream.

Which is indeed what they did last year when it served up the 80s heroes of Morrissey and Prince, in addition to The Eagles, to entertain the sun-blessed crowds.

It's not worth contemplating that both solo performers – at 53 and 52 respectively – are young enough to be Dylan's kids.

Among those Power had been hoping to sign up for the festival was Leonard Cohen. But when the dates didn't suit they came up with a compromise.

The Canadian singer-songwriter is set to play two 10,000-capacity outdoor shows, all-seated, at the Hop Farm in September.

At 77, Cohen will certainly not feel out of place as he follows in the footsteps of the summer three-day event.

The music promoter explained: "We have an agreement with the owners of the Hop Farm that

we can hire the venue out and Leonard Cohen was a great opportunity to do just that. The A Day at the Hop Farm proved ticket sales were strong and so we're set to add an extra date."

But watching pensioners tread the boards? Well, it's not very rock 'n' roll is it?

For that we have to look elsewhere. And the county's other major festival – the critically acclaimed Lounge on the Farm.

Last year it did what rock music really ought to do and upset the neighbours.

As a result, the police called for its licence on the working Merton Farm (the cow shed venue

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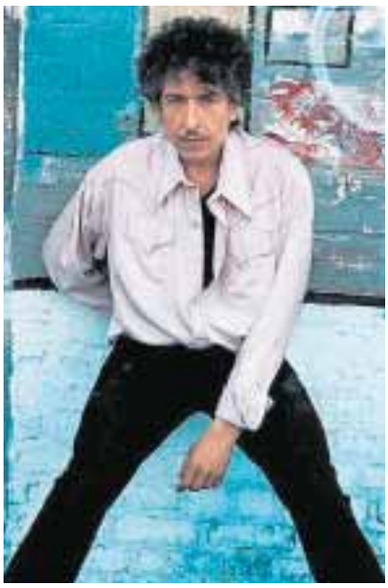

is next door to, well, a shed full of cows), in Canterbury, to be withdrawn.

Fortunately for all concerned, rock's trademark middle finger was not deployed and instead everyone got around the table and acted like adults. The result? A nice new licence and a string of conditions which should ensure much fun is still had, while those living within earshot of the site itself, don't spend the weekend tutting.

Unlike the Hop Farm, Lounge is a far more contemporary affair and one which embraces its roots. Much of the food and drink is locally produced, and the atmosphere is more village fete than anything more challenging. It's a hard one to dislike. Unless, it would appear, you live next door to it.

TUNE IN: Being 'too old' to attend a festival is no longer an excuse which carries any weight given Kent's varied line-up this summer, including Bob Dylan (centre)

Headliners for its July outing include Emeli Sande, The Wombats and The Charlatans. By the time 70s funksters Chic and Dexys Midnight Runners have been added in, it seeks to cater for several generations, underlining its 'eclectic' music line-up tag.

Meanwhile, it would seem the early 1990s indie/Britpop revival is just around the corner. Organisers of Quex Park's Sound Island Festival in July have put together an intriguing line-up which sees Manchester's finest James headline, supported by the likes of Inspiral Carpets, Echo and the Bunnymen, Space, and Cast. Expect a lot of 30-somethings digging out their old Carter USM shirts for the occasion.

Day two of the non-camping festival will see perhaps the youngest outing of the summer as Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks perform – reminding us music is a young person's game deep down.

Back at the Hop Farm, what's billed as the UK's top reggae and dub weekender comes in August with the likes of Freddie McGregor, Frankie Paul and Dawn Penn performing in what could, should the weather be kind, be the suprise hit of the summer. Moving to Kent for the first time, One Love has the festival favourites of 'peace and love' at its heart.

And last, but by no means least, comes Medway's series of Castle Concerts – which seek to tick a box for most generations. There's soul legends Billy Ocean and Alexander O'Neal, throwaway pop kings and queens Steps, classical treat the Royal Philharmonic, and Jools Holland.

This week even saw Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon confirm his Public Image Limited would perform at a new one-day festival, Music Event One on July 28, in Rochester along with the Wedding Present.

Getting to a festival is never a particularly cheap affair.

Yet Kent this summer offers up a rather tasty looking smorgasbord which, if nothing else, means you save on petrol money.

FESTIVALS A DRIVE AWAY...

Latitude, Southwold, Suffolk
When? July 12-15
Who? Paul Weller, Elbow, Bon Iver, Ben Howard
Why? Possibly the most middle-class festival of the lot, it trades as much on its literary, comedy, poetry and film content, as it does its high calibre of music.

Rewind, Henley, Oxford
When? August 18-19
Who? The Bangles, Jimmy Summerville, Adam Ant, OMD, Rick Astley, T'Pau
Why? At some point the 80s revival will run out of steam... but not yet. The hits and act heavy line-up offers considerable bang for your buck.

V Festival, Chelmsford, Essex
When? August 18-19
Who? The Stone Roses, The Killers, Snow Patrol, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
Why? Extremely easy to reach courtesy of the joys of the Dartford Crossing, V's budget is envied by everyone, and by securing the Roses' only UK festival show it has real kudos this year.

Reading Festival, Reading, Berks
When? August 24-26
Who? The Cure, Foo Fighters, Kasabian, Florence & The Machine, You Me at Six
Why? Heaven for a teenager with a penchant of wearing black, feeling down and a loud guitar. That'll be pretty much all of them then.

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POLICE

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

IT'S A MYSTERY: Police conducted an in-depth search for a body in Rankine Road, Tunbridge Wells

Mum's 'quest' to reveal secret of 'dead' girl after police dig finds nothing

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FAMILY whose garden was dug up in a search for human remains following a tip-off about the death of a young girl 50 years ago said it has sparked a quest to find out what happened.

Jojo Stanley and her children – who have no connection to the case – were moved out of their home and to a hotel last Sunday, as police prepared to begin what could have been a potentially gruesome dig.

Officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate descended on the rear garden of the property in Rankine Road on the Sherwood estate in Tunbridge Wells but, despite a day and a half of digging, they found nothing.

The search was prompted by information given to police relating to a possible crime committed in the late 1950s in which a young woman died.

The property once belonged to a World War Two RAF navigator and speculation surrounding the case suggests one of his nine children came forward claiming a woman called Laura had been buried there.

Other family members said their father was being unfairly implicated in the possible crime.

Ms Stanley, who has a 16-year-old daughter and an autistic son, aged six, said police called an urgent meeting with her five weeks ago and explained they would be searching for human remains.

"I can't even explain the emotions we went through," said the 43-year-old.

"It brought up so many questions about what could have happened. I didn't expect to be hit so hard; I had a horrible feeling for the month leading up to the search.

"I didn't want to step foot on that part of the garden."

Ms Stanley said police had taken aerial shots and carried out extensive work before approaching her.

"The lengths the police went to make me think there has to be some credence behind it all," she said.

"More than just one person came forward with information. They wouldn't have wasted money and resources on this unless something had happened."

Police focused their attentions on an old fish pond in the garden.

"They were very specific about where they were digging, but memories can be distorted so you never know whether that was the right place," said Ms Stanley.

"I don't think this is finished business." She added: "It will take a while for us to move on from this. I don't know whether we would've moved back had human remains been found.

"I feel a quest to find out what happened to this girl. I don't take these allegations lightly."

Ms Stanley, who works in a local school, said there had been a lot of interest from the community about the investigation.

Neighbour Pam Lloyd, 29, said the investigation had come as a shock.

"When I first found out there was a search in the garden I was scared," she said. "It was a huge relief when we found out there was nothing found. To be honest though I'm still a bit wary about the whole thing."

The Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said it had completed the search of the garden, but has so far given no further information about the investigation.

Det Insp Lee Whitehead, said: "The search of the garden in Rankine Road has been completed and no human remains have been found.

"I would like to thank the residents from Rankine Road and the surrounding area, for their co-operation and patience while we carried out this investigative work."

■ **Read more news at www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.**

CHARITY

New phone service for isolated elderly people

TUNBRIDGE Wells charity for the elderly – the Good Neighbour Project – is launching a new service to connect isolated people aged 65 and over with others in their community. A free weekly one-hour conference call among a group of participants will promote discussion about healthy eating, physical activity and mental well-being in an accessible and friendly way. For further information call 01892 510200.

CRIME

Naked man's indecent act in front of children

POLICE are hunting for a man who stripped naked and committed an indecent act in front of children in Margate. Two young girls were playing in the park close to Northdown Park Road on Good Friday at around 4.30pm when they saw a man strip naked and commit the act. The flasher is white, aged 35-45-years-old, and heavily built. He was clean shaven and had short brown hair which was greying.

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CANDIDATE: Archbishop of York John Sentamu has been widely tipped as the next head of the Church of England

RELIGION

Public given chance to help choose the next Archbishop of Canterbury

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE search for the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury has officially started.

Speculation surrounding who will take over from Dr Rowan Williams when he leaves in December has so far led to rumours of four candidates, with Archbishop of York John Sentamu at the top of the list.

Other frontrunners become head of the Church of England include Bishop of Norwich Graham James, Bishop of London Richard Chartres, and Bishop of Bradford Nick Baines.

But no official confirmation of any name has been made.

This month, Kent representatives from the Canterbury diocese – which stretches from Maidstone to the east coast and from Thanet to the Isle of Sheppey – will get involved with the consultation process to appoint the new archbishop.

The Archbishops' secretary for appointments and the Prime Minister's appointments secretary met with individuals and groups from churches, businesses, schools, and local councils on Tuesday. A further meeting is planned for April 26.

Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Ian Thomas; Mayor of Dover, Cllr Ronnie Philpott; and the Lord Lieutenant of Kent Lord De L'Isle will have their views heard during the consultation.

A second meeting will also be held on April 26 between 7-8.30pm at the ISC at Canterbury Cathedral for the public to contribute their thoughts on the appointment.

Local people are involved in the consultation process because as well as heading up the Church of England, the Archbishop is also responsible for the Canterbury diocese.

A spokeswoman for the diocese said: "The meeting is open to anyone. It will provide a chance for local people from across the diocese to contribute their thoughts."

The responsibility for choosing the next Archbishop rests with the Crown Nominations Committee, made up of two bishops from the Church of England, an Archbishop from the Anglican Communion, six members of General Synod and six members elected from the diocese's vacancy-in-see committee, which is chaired by the Bishop of Dover the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott.

They are holding consultations around the country and overseas before they submit the name of a preferred candidate and a second option to the Prime Minister, who makes the final recommendation to the Queen.

Dr Williams, who has been Archbishop of Canterbury for 10 years, will be taking up the position of Master of Magdelene College in Cambridge in January, 2013.

Under his leadership, the Church has been involved in controversial debates on issues including the ordination of gay clergy and women bishops.

Dr Williams has supported the ordination of women and made no objection to the appointment of a gay bishop in Reading.

The Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev James Langstaff, said he was sad to see Dr Williams stepping down and paid tribute to his "distinctive contributions" to the contentious debates.

"His wisdom, learning and prayerfulness stand out. He has been in post through times of significant change and debate within both church and wider society," he said.

"Despite what some may say, I think we will come to realise that he has held the unity of the church through these times in a way that few others could have done."

The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, who deals with local matters in the absence of the Archbishop, said Dr Williams was deeply valued for his "leadership, pastoral experience, prayerful commitment and warmth".

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting on April 26 should contact Victoria Greatorex on 01227 459401 or vgreatorex@diocant.org. Seats are limited.

■ **More news at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

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News

COURT

Fraudster tried to arrange murder of his mother-in-law

By Ed Hill
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FRAUDSTER has been jailed for more than five years after admitting trying to arrange to have his wife's mother killed.

Bhupinder Desi, 36, believed his mother-in-law was behind his wife's decision to leave the marital home with their two children.

Maidstone Crown Court heard how Dhesi, of Lennox Road, Gravesend, employed a private investigator in September, 2011, and at first asked him to locate his family.

However, soon after Dhesi asked if he could locate two witnesses who would attend court and provide false evidence in his forthcoming mortgage fraud trial to help support his claim of innocence.

The private investigator was uneasy with the request and asked Dhesi to email his requirements.

A month after contacting the investigator, Dhesi asked him to help him get his children back and suggested his wife have some form of accident.

LOCKED UP: Bhupinder Desi

Less than a week later, he contacted the investigator again to say he did not want to harm his wife, but that he wanted his mother-in-law killed instead.

Dhesi was arrested at his home on October 13, four days before he was due to stand trial at Maidstone Crown Court on two fraud matters.

He was charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice in relation to his attempts to obtain false witnesses in a criminal hearing in relation to the forthcoming fraud trial, and soliciting to commit murder in relation to his mother-in-law.

Dhesi pleaded guilty to the charges close to the trial.

Judge Carey sentenced him to five years and three months for soliciting to commit murder, and eight months concurrent for perverting the course of justice.

In addition he was sentenced to three years and six months in relation to the fraud and two years and three months for a separate London-based mortgage fraud, totalling 11 years.

Det Chief Insp Andrea Bishop from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: "Dhesi was cold and calculating and prepared to go to any lengths to get his wife and children back.

"It didn't matter to him if that cost money or meant getting people to lie on his behalf."

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News

HERITAGE

Rare wartime water cart restored by history group

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVEN though the county is experiencing a drought and hosepipe ban, it is difficult to imagine the water problems suffered during World War One.

But a group of historians have been trying to do just that by restoring a rare wartime water carrier that once transported vital supplies to the frontline.

Members of the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment Living History Group worked hard on the horse-drawn cart which was used to supply water to soldiers in the trenches.

Nigel Bristow, a carpenter from Tonbridge, led the operation to get the unusual vehicle back on to its wheels.

He said: "It has been a labour of love for us but we have enjoyed seeing the cart come back to life and are looking forward to showing new generations this important piece of history.

"During the war, even with the cart, getting water out to the troops on the frontline would have been difficult.

"The minimum daily requirement per soldier was just one-third of a gallon, about one litre of water, but in reality they probably did not even get that much. Today we use an average of 160 litres per person every day."

The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association helped with the cost of the project, and there was a £3,000 donation from South East Water and Southern Water.

Kent residents will soon be able to see the cart in action as the Living History Group take it around county shows.

The Living History Group was formed by a number of historians who share a passionate interest in the period and the regiments of Kent.

The non-political, non-profit making organisation started three years ago and provides an opportunity for practical research into the uniforms, weapons, equipment, training and everyday life of World War One soldiers.

It attends events to provide displays of uniform and equipment and can even help those trying to discover more about their relatives who fought during the war.

A spokesman said: "This is a living history group, rather than a battle re-enactment group. Our focus is on education and research. But our members do dress in period uniforms and equipment to give the most accurate portrayal of activities of the time."

THE CART: Peter Zieminski from the Living History Group, with South East Water's Jo Osborn and Nigel Bristow

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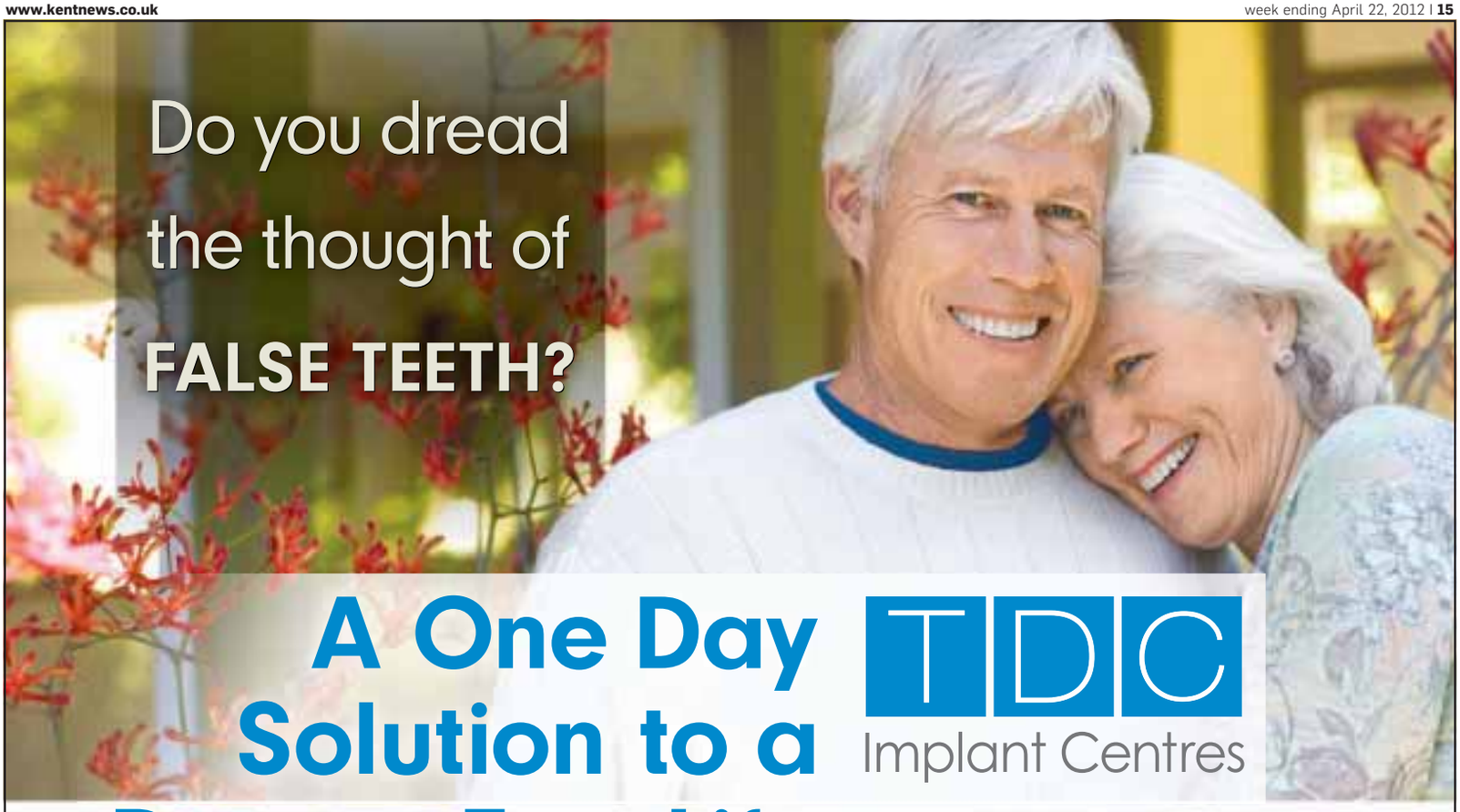

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News

COMPETITION

WIN! Key to the Castle tickets and find out what the butler saw

A NEW exhibition, called What the Butler Saw, will tell the stories from above and below stairs life at Leeds Castle in the 1930s, through the eyes of the servants.

And we have five pairs of Key to the Castle tickets to give away, which let the winners visit the exhibition, which runs from May 1–October 21, and also visit the castle for a whole year.

As Downton Abbey and Upstairs Downstairs return this year, highlighting the lives of the owners and the servants of great houses in the 1920s and 30s, a special exhibition comes to Leeds Castle to tell the real stories of life at "the loveliest castle in the world".

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the country is mirrored in the popular dramatisations.

Entrance to this exhibition is included with your Key to the Castle ticket at £19.75 for adults; £17.50 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer free); £12.50 for children (under 4s free). Tickets are valid for 12 months so you can pay once and visit all year.

To enter our competition just answer this question

In which decade is What the Butler Saw set?

A 1930s, B 1940s, C 1950s

To enter text KOS followed by BUTLER and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, e.g. KOS BUTLER C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT.

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News

AVIATION

Statue plans for first lady of cross-Channel flight

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A YEAR-LONG series of events is under way to celebrate the achievements of plucky female aviator Harriet Quimby.

The first woman to fly the English Channel is celebrated by the Harriet Quimby Centenary Project, based in Dover, and run by Andy Cooper.

He said: "We wanted to organise this extensive programme of events to commemorate and celebrate the life and achievements of Harriet and her relevance to Dover.

"With Heritage Lottery funding, we have commissioned a DVD, which will form part of an educational pack sent to every school and college in the area. Also in the pack will be booklets and teachers' notes."

The group has also commissioned a replica of the American's famous purple flying suit to be created from satin, by Louise Miller of Mascarada in London Road, Dover.

A half-sized replica model of the Bleriot XI monoplane she used on her Channel flight will be built by the Bloobirds flying club of Dover.

All will be on permanent display at the Dover Transport Museum from July.

There is also due to be a Harriet Quimby Day at the Dover Regatta on July 4, American Independence Day. This will be attended by the American ambassador, Lord Warden of The Cinque Ports, chairman of Dover District Council, and chairman of Whitfield Parish Council, holding a small ceremony on Dover seafront.

FLYING HIGH: Harriet Quimby

Last weekend, a plaque to Quimby was be unveiled at the Ramada Hotel, Whitfield.

On April 16, 1912, Quimby took off from Dover and flew to Calais in 59 minutes. At the time, the journalist's accomplishment received little media attention, as the sinking of the Titanic the day before dominated the headlines.

Mr Cooper said: "The idea is that in the coming year, we will raise sufficient funds for a statue of Miss Quimby to be erected on the White Cliffs. We have made a pre-funding application to the Arts Council to raise the £90,000 needed for this and we are currently working in conjunction with East Kent Arts and Regeneration and Dover Arts Development Ltd to make this happen."

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News

RELIGION

Crowds line streets for Sikh Vaisakhi festival procession

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HELICOPTER showering Gravesend with flowers signalled the start of a procession to mark the most important date in the Sikh religious calendar.

Around 10,000 Sikhs joined the procession as thousands more lined the route of the town's Vaisakhi procession.

They were joined by many from other faiths and communities to also celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the town's new temple – the gurdwara.

The half-mile long parade was followed last Sunday with the main Vaisakhi service in the gurdwara, attended by around 2,000 people during the morning and a stream of people throughout the day.

Vaisakhi is the most important date in the Sikh calendar from a religious perspective.

It celebrates the birth of the Khalsa, when the 10th Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, initiated, or baptised, the first five Sikhs – Panj Pyare, or Five Beloved Ones.

IT'S PARTY TIME: Drummers from the Jugnu Bhangra group

He then asked them to baptise Him, demonstrating that all Sikhs are equal.

Culturally, Vaisakhi has been celebrated for centuries as the time of harvest in the Punjab.

There were also 20 floats in the procession that were prepared by religious, arts and cultural groups.

It procession was led by the Guru Granth Sahib, the religion's holy book, in a model of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Gurdwara president Jaspal Singh Dhesi said: "This is a time of great celebration for Sikhs all over the world, and in Gravesend we are proud to share the celebrations with the wider community. I would like to thank the people of this wonderful town for helping to make this such a joyous occassion."

After the procession's return to the gurdwara, there was a display of the Punjabi martial art gatka, and an under-21 kabaddi tournament took place on the sports field at the temple.

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES MPG (L/100KM): URBAN: 27.7 (10.2), EXTRA URBAN: 48.7 (5.8), COMBINED: 37.7 (7.5). CO2 MASS EMISSION (COMBINED) 174 G/KM model shown is the MG6 GT S at £15,455 in Union Blue metallic paint at an optional extra of £395.00. 0% APR representative available for the MG GT 'S' until 30th June 2012. Payment example of £149 is based on a 41.1% deposit over 60 months. A minimum deposit of 40% applies. Finance by MG Financial Services a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6890, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over, and guarantees and/or indemnities may be required. Offer available until 30th June 2012.

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YOUNG PEOPLE

Scouting numbers reach an all-time record high as 750 sign up in a year

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GETTING INVOLVED: Kent's young Scouts take part in a wide variety of outdoor activities

SCOUTING has been enjoying a renaissance in Kent as youngsters rediscover the benefits of joining the 105-year-old organisation.

Scouting chiefs are delighted with the steady rise in numbers over the past seven years, and say it provides a great base to continue building membership.

Former scouts returning to encourage others to join has helped, but parents are seeing the results of friends' children joining and are following suit.

Kent Scout numbers grew by four per cent in the past year, which has helped boost recruitment by 19 per cent since 2005.

In the past 12 months, membership increased by 750 youngsters, making a county total of 19,488, the highest ever, and the second highest county in UK. A quarter of members are girls.

An analysis of the stats found Explorer Scouts, for 14 to 18-year-olds, is the fastest-growing group over the last year with a 12 per cent increase, giving it 44 per cent of the total.

Organisers say this makes Scouting the largest co-educational youth movement in the county.

The Scout Association believes this is in part due to the range of activities offered, with the emphasis on outdoor adventure activities appropriate to the age group concerned – and with Kent boasting the longest coastline of any county it offers an unparalleled range of water activities from scuba diving to powerboating.

Harvey Kennett, the county commissioner for Scouting in Kent, who only took over the reins in January, said: "I am delighted to have taken over after all the work by the previous commissioner, and hope to build on his success. I particularly want to focus on the quality of Scouting we offer and to increase the numbers of young leaders who can inspire the next generation."

Television personality and survival expert Bear Grylls is also Britain's Chief Scout. He said it was great to see Scout numbers in Kent continuing to rise.

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LONDON MARATHON

Runners' blood, sweat and tears for charity

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RUNNERS from across the county will be pounding the streets of the capital this weekend for the annual London Marathon.

Many of Kent's marathon runners will be aiming to raise thousands of pounds for charity with their efforts over the 26 mile course.

Among Sunday's runners are Luke Edmonds from Herne Bay, who takes on his second London Marathon to help Starlight grant the wishes of seriously and terminally ill children. There are currently 30 children in Kent waiting to have once-in-a-lifetime wishes come true.

Simon Graydon, from Ringwould, has run the equivalent distance of nine marathons in five days and is now doing the race for the RNLI.

The 40-year-old headteacher said: "Living by the coast, the RNLI was a natural choice as they provide a lifeline for the many people who work and play on the sea."

Tristam Burgess, from Kennington, Ashford, has a special inspiration for his run for Barnardo's. He said: "Back in July, my mother, Hazel, challenged me to run the marathon, and beat her time. The next month she lost her battle with cancer. At her funeral she had requested that people make donations to Barnardo's."

Maidstone's Andy Enston, 42, works for South East Water and hopes to raise £2,000 for WaterAid, an international charity which aims to provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene education for all.

He said: "Being a plumber I can relate not only to the importance of having access to clean, safe running water, but also the work that WaterAid puts in to establishing these systems together with the community."

Tracey Churchyard, 48, from Welling, is raising funds for Age UK, the charity dedicated to improving the lives of older people. She said: "This is my opportunity to give something back to older people in our society – a vital cause that's important but often overlooked."

Captain Phil Layton of the Hythe Salvation Army said: "Not everything has gone according to plan, I've experienced strained abdominal muscles, blisters, even bleeding nipples.

"But amid the aches, strains, sweat and pain, the greatest motivation to persevere will be to have plenty of sponsorship to once more help the Salvation Army meet its financial needs as it aims to continue its work in the community."

Another first timer is Folkestone bar owner Steven Bains, 40, who wants to shed five stone and raise cash for Leonard Cheshire Disability.

The Gravesend resident said: "A year ago I could barely run up the road, if you'd told me that 12 months later I'd be running the London Marathon then I wouldn't have believed you."

Several people are running for Kent Association for the Blind. Sutton Valance student Alastair Carter is running having done charity pram races for five years.

Glynis Hanrahan, a Maidstone optometrist hopes to raise more than £400. She said: "Running a regular clinic within the KAB Sight Centre, I have plenty of experience working with people with eye conditions. I value the work that KAB does to help transform people's lives."

Charlie Meredith-Hardy hopes to raise £1,000 and said: "My niece is visually impaired and KAB has helped her enormously."

Insurance expert Ray Johnson, from Folkestone is also running for KAB, and aims to raise £750 and finish in a personal best time.

And West Malling couple Allan and Deborah Clark are looking for £3,000. Allan said: "KAB supports more than 15,500 people with a visual impairment, providing expert advice on how to stay independent and get the most out of life."

The wife and sister of a Tunbridge Wells GP Paul Roome, 43, who has the heart muscle disease cardiomyopathy are running to help other patients with the condition.

His wife Jane, 42, and also a GP, and his sister Elizabeth Dowling, a 47-year-old charity volunteer, are raising aid for the Cardiomyopathy Association.

Bank manager Hayley Thomas, 37, from Borough Green supports the NSPCC's ChildLine. She said: "This is my first London Marathon and I am very excited and nervous."

Others are also running for ChildLine. These include student Melissa Esref, 20, from Canterbury, and Sonja du Plessis, 46, from Tunbridge Wells, a director for Pricewaterhouse Coopers

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Picture: M COLLINS

GOOD LUCK: Clockwise from opposite left: Andy Enston, Phil Layton, Ashley Giles, Simon Graydon, Cliff Stokes, husband and wife Paul and Jane Roomes with Elizabeth Dowling, and Helen Barton

LLP. She said: "This is my eighth consecutive marathon. I did one in fancy dress as Snow White. It draws great support from the crowd."

Financier Keith Jones, from Maidstone, said: "This is the fourth time I have run the marathon. As a parent, the thought of vulnerable children being at risk is awful so it's vital to raise funds for the NSPCC and ChildLine."

And design agency owner Michael Holman, 47, from Tunbridge Wells, who said: "The work of the NSPCC is vital – the charity protects those who are unable to protect themselves."

Maidstone firefighter mum Carole Browne, 46, is raising funds for Richard House Children's Hospice after her eight-day-old daughter spent her last days there. She said: "Charlotte was born with Edwards Syndrome and could not breathe properly. She also had a heart problem."

Breast cancer sufferer Sarah Tonry, 52, from Whitstable, is raising money for children's charity Rainbow Trust.

After getting ankle fractures during training, doctors warned she could be suffering from osteoporosis, brought on by treatment for two bouts of breast cancer.

The mum-of-three is determined to run in honour of the loved ones she has lost – her mother, father and brother in the space of 10 years.

Ashley Giles from Broadstairs runs for disability charity Livability, and said: "I've been aware of people with disabilities since I was young due to my parents working with disabled young people and family members with disabilities."

Girlguiding volunteer Dr Helen Barton, 30, from Tunbridge Wells said: "It's great to be running for a charity that I feel so passionately about because it means I can talk about guiding all the time." The GP wants to raise £1,400.

IDEAS & ADVICE
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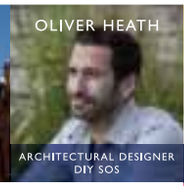
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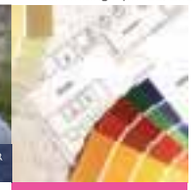

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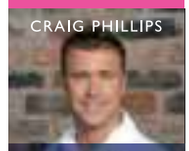
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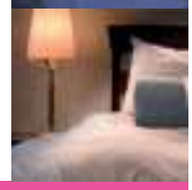

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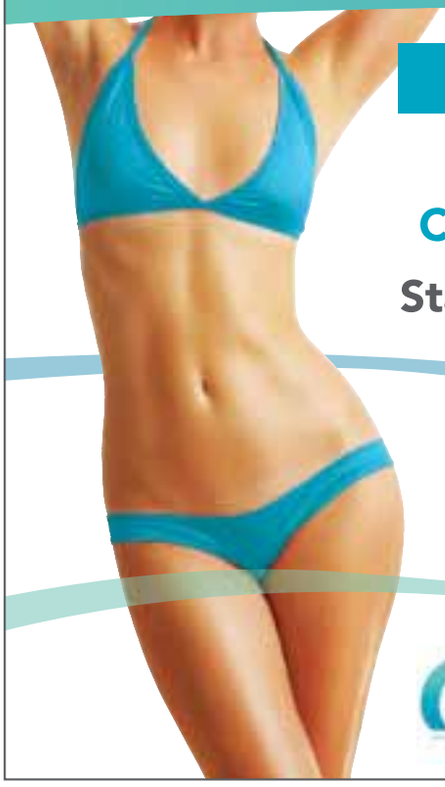

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

A HIDDEN BEAUTY: Holywell Spring is located in a tranquil area of rolling grassland near Folkestone

Forgotten sacred wells that still spring eternal

Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LITTLE known part of the ancient heritage of the rolling grassland Downs behind Folkestone lies between Sugarloaf Hill and the A260 Canterbury Road.

The origins of the Holywell Spring are shrouded in mystery, but this tranquil area of streams in a small valley is featured in the publication by arts group Strange Cargo of Everywhere Means Something to Someone, the 'People's Guidebook to Folkestone' which is currently a best-seller in the town's branch of Waterstones.

Currently giving its name to a local street Holywell Avenue, and with a bus stop named after it, the flowing water is also sometimes known as the Lady Well or St Thomas' Well as it is believed pilgrims on their way to the shrine of martyred Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket may have stopped there to refresh themselves.

According to the beliefs of the time, offerings to the saint would have been left, sometimes in the form of garments or jewellery. This tradition continues in the form of today's wishing wells.

Other 'Becket' wells and springs exist in Bapchild, where one used to provide a water source for a leper hospital, and Kemsing where the archbishop himself is said to have seen the village needed a water supply, so stuck his staff in the ground causing water to gush out.

Whatever the truth of the story the medieval masonry which surrounded the source still exists.

The Folkestone spring includes what researchers for the book, published to coincide with last year's Triennial arts festival, first though was a milling stone.

But later research identified it as being similar to one which caps water bubbling to the surface in Glastonbury, Somerset – a town long associated with mythology concerning King Arthur, Joseph of Arimathea and even a visit by the young Jesus Christ to Britain's shores.

The area is easily accessible by footpaths, both from the main road and across the hills.

But it remains seldom visited and little known, even by those who live in residential areas less than a quarter of a mile away.

Springs are one of the most important parts of the landscape of ancient England, and although many are now designated as 'holy wells', their traditions reach far further back in time.

Historians are broadly agreed that watercourses flowing from the ground, such as the Folkestone springs, were a sacred site to tribal peoples in the distant past – with their older use overlaid by Christian legends.

Many are associated with druids and their sacred groves of oak and thorn.

As Christianity spread, priests, unable to stop people visiting their ancient shrines, simply adopted them and used them for baptism or as meeting points for pilgrims and worshippers.

As St Thomas Becket is associated with the east Kent shrine, so across the country are many others saints – but scratching under the surface reveals legends connecting the sites with Arthur's knights, pagan deities, and sprites and faeries.

With piped water readily available for everyday use, the vital part springs played in life in past times is not immediately obvious, although they are vital to many communities across Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

But for centuries they provided the vital water for humans, animals and crops and a dried-up well could prove a disaster for a village.

The ancient people of England had a natural reverence for places where they could see pure and fresh water emerging from the earth. As a result flowing water has played an important role in mythology and legend throughout the ages.

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OPINION

Ambition breeds success

Director of Turner Contemporary Victoria Pomery reflects on the role of the gallery in regeneration and the achievements of its first year

TURNER Contemporary, Kent's flagship gallery, celebrated its first birthday this week.

Designed by leading British architect Sir David Chipperfield, the gallery was opened by Tracey Emin and Jools Holland in April, 2011, and has already welcomed more than half a million visitors.

Kent County Council demonstrated its ambition and bold vision in supporting the development of the gallery, showing courage and determination in using culture as a driver for regeneration.

There were many who doubted whether a gallery would ever be built in Margate and even more who were sceptical about whether it would attract visitors. The great news is that Turner Contemporary has had a phenomenal first year of operation and is set for another wonderful year ahead.

Over the past year, we have undertaken research into our audiences and the impact we are having. The gallery has already delivered benefits to the Kent economy of £13.8m, supporting new businesses and jobs, and raising the profile of Margate and Kent in media around the world.

Admittedly these are early days – we've only just marked our first birthday – and regeneration takes time – its not just about improvements to buildings and the public realm, it is about changing mind sets. Margate Old Town has already been transformed and we feel confident more will follow. This will take commitment and strategic leadership from partners such as KCC, Thanet District Council and the private sector.

The arts are relevant to everybody's lives and the gallery is committed to enriching the cultural life of Kent.

Since opening we have presented four major exhibitions and brought Auguste Rodin's magnificent work The Kiss to Margate. There has always been a least one work by JMW Turner in the gallery and all our exhibitions have been free.

Currently we have a critically acclaimed exhibition, Turner and the Elements, which visitors have travelled from near and far to see.

The gallery is a major educational resource used by schools, colleges and universities as well as community groups and individuals. We run a Schools and Learning Programme, which welcomed more than 6,000 school children in our first year. In addition, we organise talks, music and dance performances. The programme changes frequently so there is always something different to see and experience.

Last November Her Majesty the Queen made a visit to the gallery. Whilst here she met schoolchildren, artists and members of the community, all of whom have had some connection to the gallery. It was a day of celebration.

The gallery has already delivered benefits to Kent's economy of £13.8m

Turner Contemporary is rooted in Margate but we are already making a significant contribution to the cultural infrastructure of the UK. This summer we will be showing an exhibition of new work by Tracey Emin, part of the London 2012 Festival linked to the Olympics, and new commissions by three highly regarded artists – Lindsay Seers, John Smith and Mark Wallinger.

Nationally, we know the arts support tourism, inward investment, education and enhance the UK's profile. We are extremely fortunate to have so many fantastic arts organisations around the country and Kent should feel proud that it has Turner Contemporary.

Thank you to everyone who supported us in our opening 12 months and I hope you will visit us in our second year.

KOS COMMENT

Be sure before giving fracking the go ahead

FRACKING had been relatively unknown until it hit the headlines after causing two earth tremors.

It's now been claimed that while the gas extraction method can cause earthquakes, this can be avoided under strict rules. But there's also the threat of water contamination, which is even more concerning, not just for those living near potential fracking sites in Kent, but the whole county.

So is it really worth the risk? Some would argue that fracking produces less carbon emissions than other techniques and is a cheap option of energy supply. But should this be at the detriment of people's health? The Government needs to be 100 per cent sure before it gives it the green light.

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Staircase inside the Guildhall Museum, Rochester by Obee

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Please vote for minority party

JOHN Dutton (Letters, April 15) is quite right when he says people should "vote against the usual suspects".

His letter is totally right and raises some accurate points. The people of Bradford West got it right recently and George Galloway's win was not just about stay-at-home Labour supporters but in fact the electorate actually getting out and voting.

People should treat local elections seriously and vote, and on this occasion should vote for minor parties (not BNP please) to show their displeasure at the incompetent governments we have had to suffer over the last many number of years.

On another point, according to the latest opinion polls 48 per cent of people want the UK to leave the EU yet only one party – as far as I know – (Ukip) promises they will leave the EU if elected. However Ukip never receive 48 per cent of the vote.

The problem with the electorate of this country is that they only vote for the main parties as they are the only ones that can win. If they voted as the believe then none of the main parties would be in government, and these three parties would therefore not be the main parties any more.

I urge every elector who has a vote to think before voting then vote for what they agree with and not because of the colour of their rosette.

If there is a Loony candidate then please vote Loony, otherwise vote for a minor party but not a racialist one.

Sheikh Mihand (AKA Jackie Davidson) Sittingbourne Loonies

Independent means local

ARTICLES and letters in the local press are appearing advocating the electorate vote for local independent candidates on May 3.

Could this advice be right and in the interests of Kent? Let's examine the evidence.

We live under a local Conservative majority whose candidates appear to be linked to the 'Westminster bubble'.

Therefore not a surprise that local politics reflect national policies regardless of Kent's particular needs.

Under this system we appear to have the biggest and deepest potholes in our roads; an inadequate rural transport system as highlighted by the lack of buses, especially to our new hospital; no real progress in the much-needed A21 dualling; a lack of housing resulting in overcrowding of family homes.

We also have a planning system which appears unable to be even handed, penalising law-abiding citizens who adhere to the rules while permitting abuse by developers, travellers and the usual suspects; and the lack of youth facilities keeping our children interested and away from drugs and street corners.

Therefore a vote for independent candidates would result in Kent's local problems being pursued and solved, by local representatives who would be free to pursue with single mindedness and vigour to the benefit of residents, without the obstacle of national politics.

Therefore the answer is 'yes' – vote for independent candidates locally, even if your national loyalty is blue.

Edward La Coste Lamberhurst

Vanity surgery is not needed

THE news often makes my blood boil.

We keep hearing about whether the NHS should rescue victims of misadventure regarding defective cosmetic surgery. This would certainly be an expensive recovery mission, but why was there no serious discussion on the topic years ago?

There are 14-year-olds saving up for their 'jobs' as we speak, you'll hear it casually discussed on the bus, high street and in public places.

Perfectly healthy young women are being sucked into this money-making monster for the most spurious of reasons. Is it done to create greater acumen in business for women; or just to impress other women; or in the quest to find Mr Right?

Things like this need to be discussed earnestly. Nobody says anything.

G Brenchley Whitstable

Confusion on royal deaths

I ENJOYED your history article very much in last week's paper. The Kent Remembered series is always entertaining.

However, I think you have muddled your kings who were 'seconds'. The cause of Richard II's death is unknown, speculation being that he was starved to death.

It is around Edward II that the story of execution by red hot poker has grown, despite the fact he was probably strangled.

The myth did, however, allow a very good band to assume the name of Edward II and the Red Hot Polkas, later relaunched as e2K.

Bill Farey, by email

Don't leave them to starve

I want to draw readers' attention to an unfolding humanitarian crisis that is going largely unnoticed by the world.

In West Africa, more than 10.5 million people are running out of food and starvation is imminent.

While no amount of funding can make the rain fall in the region, there is still time to minimise the devastation by helping families to prepare for this emergency and stop them from running out of food completely.

I support the group CARE International UK, which has been working in the region for many years and is working to stop this turning into a humanitarian catastrophe while raising the alarm about the situation.

I urge your readers to help – please visit the website www.careinternational.org.uk/west-africa and make a donation, however small, to help this worthy cause.

It is a well known fact that every £1 invested in avoiding disaster at an early stage saves at least £4 that would be spent on disaster relief at a later stage.

That is a good reason to act now, but the real reason to take action has to be that we have it in our power stop the suffering of children who, through no fault of their own, face the increasing struggle of hunger and starvation in the coming months.

Responding now will save money but more importantly it will save lives.

Parin Anderson, Hollingbourne, Maidstone

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Will Japanese turn to Dungeness after their nuclear catastrophe?

EXCLUSIVE by Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EAST Kent MP Damian Collins is calling on the Japanese to invest in a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

His move comes after a meeting between Prime Minister David Cameron and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihoko Noda that opened the door for the Far Eastern nation to build nuclear plants in the UK in return for help in cleaning up the Fukushima plant damaged in last year's earthquake and tsunami.

Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, has been a long-term campaigner for investment in a third power station on Romney Marsh, with Dungeness A currently decommissioned and Dungeness B scheduled to cease operations in 2018.

But the site could home a new plant as the Government has announced that nuclear energy will form part of Britain's future power-generation strategy.

Collins said: "Investment in Britain's nuclear industry is good news and I hope the Japanese take a look at Dungeness. The more countries looking to invest in the industry, the better.

"The door remains open for development at Dungeness and I hope the Japanese will consider the location."

The power station is a source of local employment but has its opponents, who say it poses environmental dangers in an area renowned across the world for its wildlife. Other objections are due to its proximity to Lydd airport.

Mr Cameron recently undertook his first official visit to Japan and while there signed a deal that opened up the UK's nuclear market to "Japanese companies' technical expertise in new plant design and construction".

As part of the agreement, British companies will be asked to help with the clean-up operation at the Fukushima plant damaged in the 2011 tsunami.

Cameron said while on his trip: "British companies have significant expertise in nuclear decommissioning and clean-up, with 19 nuclear sites in the UK [including Dungeness B] currently being managed through the process."

The agreement stated: "Japanese companies' technical expertise in new plant design and construction, and the UK's decommissioning and waste-management experience and technology make civil nuclear cooperation particularly mutually beneficial."

Charles Hendry, minister of state for energy, said: "I am in no doubt that co-operation with Japan in these areas will bring mutual benefits.

"This agreement will open up opportunities for UK firms to work with Japanese industry and to continue to share the UK's world-class expertise, just as we did in the aftermath of Fukushima."

There is, however, still strong opposition to development at Dungeness.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party spokesman, pointed to the cost of construction of such a plant, together with the cost of making the landscape free of contamination after decommissioning.

He said: "The site has been identified correctly by the Environment Agency as poor because of its shingle beach, which will become increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels.

"Also it is most peculiar that a country in the process of phasing out its nuclear plants will be helping another nation to establish new ones."

SEEING THE LIGHT? Dungeness could be considered by the Japanese for a new nuclear plant; Damian Collins, right, hopes so...

PROPERTY

Zoopla merger given go-ahead by the OFT

THE planned merger of two of the UK's biggest companies in the online property sector has been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading.

Zoopla, which powers the homes24.co.uk property portal run by media group Archant, publisher of Kent on Sunday, and the Digital Property Group, the business behind Findaproperty.com and Primelocation.com, announced their intention to merge in October.

The deal will create greater competition for Rightmove by bringing together the UK's second, third and fourth largest property websites.

Zoopla was founded in 2008, with homes24.co.uk becoming part of its network in January last year. Digital Property Group is owned by the Daily Mail and General Trust.

Speaking at the time the merger was announced, Martin Cunningham, commercial director of homes24.co.uk, said the consolidation of the UK property portal sector to "a definitive two players" would benefit consumers and agents alike.

The merger is set to take place during the next few weeks.

EXPANSION

Kings Hill media agency makes the news as move creates 30 positions

THREE-and-a-half years after it moved to Kings Hill, media agency The Specialist Works is expanding its base on the park and plans to recruit up to 30 new workers.

The company is one of the UK's largest independent media agencies, with a turnover of more than £45 million and employing more than 60 staff in Kent, London and Manchester.

It was voted one of the Sunday Times's 100 Best Small Companies To Work For in 2012 and rated number 26 in advertising trade magazine Campaign's Top 50 Media Agencies league table.

With expansion plans for its print, digital and creative departments over the next three years, the company plans to hike staff numbers from 25 to 55, moving into 3,606 sq ft in 30 Tower View from Churchill Square.

"It is a very successful operation thriving in the face of the current economic climate," said operations director Tom Wilson.

"We initially moved part of our business to Kings Hill from London because our key staff were fed up with commuting. We have also found recruiting locally is a very good option and there is less staff turnover than there is in London.

"We are delighted we have been able to find larger premises on site so we can keep our prestigious Kings Hill address – the business moving onwards and upwards."

DISTRIBUTION

Company raises glass to Stateside operation

A FIRM specialising in spirits expects to increase export sales by 30 per cent within the next year after signing a £200,000 deal with a US distributor – just four years after it faced ruin.

Old St Andrews, based in Sevenoaks, designs, bottle and distributes premium alcohol brands, including whisky and gin, which now have such global appeal that the company makes 90 per cent of its sales from overseas orders.

"We've just signed up our latest distributor in New Jersey as a direct result of an UKTI market visit last autumn," said managing director Bob Gorton. "The first annual contract is worth $300,000 [£200,000], but we expect this figure to double as sales roll out across America."

Yet only four years ago the company was on the brink of bankruptcy before being bought out by Gorton, who was then a business adviser.

He saw potential in the company but decided that the business needed a change of direction to target the high end of the whisky and gin markets.

He said: "We've found having face-to-face meetings abroad virtually guarantees business."

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Taxman faces paying out millions over unfair fines

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SMALL businesses may be falling victim to unfair fines from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), according to a recent judgement by a tax tribunal.

The findings of the Hok Limited vs HMRC tribunal suggested that HMRC was waiting an unacceptable length of time to inform businesses that they have missed tax-filing deadlines, resulting in business-owners accruing months of late-payment charges before realising they owed any money.

Simon Warne, tax partner at Crowe Clark Whitehill, a national firm offering audit, tax and business-advisory services, with offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, said: "Depending on the results of an appeal, HMRC may be obliged to make refunds worth millions of pounds to almost 100,000 businesses."

In the case of Hok Limited, the company believed it was not necessary to file the appropriate returns as its only employee had ceased employment partway through the year.

Although it accepts it was wrong in this assumption, it claims the error would have been remedied far sooner if HMRC had notified the company, thereby avoiding any ongoing penalties. The tribunal ruled that HMRC acted neither fairly nor in good conscience and the penalty was set at £100 rather a minimum of £500.

Warne said: "What appears to be happening is that a company which misses the tax-filing deadline in May will not receive a computer-generated reminder from HMRC until September.

"By this time, businesses are faced with four months' late-payments fees at £100 per month, as well as another £100 charge for late completion of paperwork – meaning there will always be a minimum £500 penalty.

"The tribunal has ruled these fines are disproportionately unfair as a slight error can leave companies with large fines to pay.

"There is a general feeling it is the role of the Government organisations to ensure tax is paid correctly, rather than to catch people out."

CASH NOT IN HAND: If the courts rule that HMRC has been slow to notify companies over wrong tax payments, it could be due to pay out millions to almost 100,000 UK businesses

Farmer ploughs new furrow by using hi-tech methods to help business grow

A FARMER is using the latest iPhone-type hand-held technology to try to get one step ahead of the competition.

Ashford-based Andrew Martin has branched out from his 1,600-acre Broadstream Farm on Romney Marsh into arable-farm contracting.

And to keep track of his expanding crop portfolio, he has turned to the latest in electronic farm-management systems.

"My tractors rarely leave the yard these days without a pre-generated work plan," said Martin, who uses equipment supplied by software specialist Landmark Systems to give him up-to-the-minute information on soil type, rotation patterns and stock control.

"Due to the success of the business we have set up each client as a separate entity and it is great to be able to transfer, record and charge stock effortlessly between different cost centres.

"At the same time we can access important field data from the tractor cab, including plans for spraying, fertilizer-application and muck-spreading.

"Easy access to this type of information is important for any farmer, but because all of the land we farm is in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, compliance with agreed fertilizer patterns is absolutely vital."

Martin has seen his contract-farming acreage double in recent years and he now manages five major clients in addition to his own farm.

He manages a standard arable rotation of wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas and oilseed rape.

Nigel Parsons, managing director of Landmark Systems, said: "Modern farming is all about having accurate, real-time management information that allows you to keep on top of costs and control stock effectively.

"Now, more than ever, farmers offering contracting services like Andrew need immediate, easy access to information such as crop yields and machinery usage.

"Being able to see detailed work plans out in the field is a crucial part of successful farming in the 21st century."

TAKEOVER

Golf centre's new owner is asking for customer 'in-putt'

MYTIME Active has bought Orpington Golf Centre from Crown Golf.

Crown Golf has traded the property since January 2005, following its acquisition of American Golf (AGUK).

The club was founded in the early 1970s and offers 53 holes of golf, a driving range and teaching academy, together with retail and food and beverage facilities.

Stephen Lewis, chief executive of Crown Golf, said: "We are extremely pleased to be passing on this property to a new owner who has great ambition for the site.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank-you to all the Orpington Golf Centre staff for their hard work and diligence during the sale process and wish them every success under the new ownership.

"I would also like to thank all our customers for their loyalty during our period of ownership and to wish them continued enjoyment of Orpington Golf Centre under the new ownership of Mytime Active."

Mytime Active chief executive Steve Price said: "Orpington will be a great addition to our growing range of golf courses and will complement those we already manage at Farnborough, Bromley, Bexley and Maidstone.

"As a social enterprise we are committed to improving quality and value, and we're looking forward to meeting customers to discuss potential future improvements."

AWARDS

Employees safe knowing that they work for a big company

AXA, the insurer whose UK operations include Tunbridge Wells's largest business, AXA PPP healthcare, has been awarded 19th place in 2012's The Sunday Times 25 Best Big Companies To Work For.

The national awards, based on confidential feedback from employees, praised AXA's 'feel-good factor' – with 77 per cent of employees saying that colleagues "truly care about each other" and 76 per cent agreeing that "people go out of their way to help each other" in the business.

AXA secured special recognition for its focus on employee well-being, with employees able to access a range of health and well-being benefits, including support on healthy living as well as opportunities to try out a variety of health-enhancing activities such as the Alexander Technique, Zumba classes and 'mindball' challenge – a computer-based programme where participants seek to control a ball game through the power of relaxation.

AXA was also commended for being environmentally friendly – with 72 per cent of employees agreeing that "AXA makes it easy to be green" – and for its charitable and volunteering activities.

Sonia Wolsey Cooper, AXA PPP healthcare's membership and people director, said: "We've a wealth of talented employees who not only care for their colleagues and customers but are also committed to their community and to supporting good causes."

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Training, courses and careers

College plans to build on construction popularity

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NORTH West Kent College is offering a construction programme at its newly redeveloped Dartford campus.

Construction, building services and engineering courses are already offered at the college's Gravesend campus, but this new Dartford offering will now enable students from Dartford and the surrounding areas to be in easier commuting distance.

From September, the Dartford campus will offer a multi-skills construction one-year programme, which will include units covering electrical, ceramic tiling, carpentry, brick work and painting and decorating. These courses will provide students with a broad base training across all skill areas, and an opportunity to try them out and perhaps specialise in their second year.

This is an innovative move for the college as traditionally the Dartford campus has previously only offered painting and decorating.

Following the increase in demand and enquiries about construction courses at Dartford, vice principal Penny Morgan, said: "We are offering this course so students can experience a range of construction industry skills, but do not have to travel to Gravesend for them.

"Students have heard about our good reputation and want to be trained by our highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

"The courses on offer will also include a link to the award-winning Sustainable Construction Centre, SusCon, which is part of a joint initiative, based at the Bridge in Dartford."

Level 1 is the entry requirement for the course, but students could successfully complete a vocational course and qualify for entry that way, said Ms Morgan.

In addition to an increased construction programme being offered at the Dartford campus, the college has recently introduced sports and business and secretarial courses at the newly redeveloped Gravesend campus.

They want to encourage more students from the local community and surrounding areas to study with them on industry linked programmes.

Another new feature is the Level 2 Award in medical terminology to address the needs of the healthcare industry.

And as part of its sports programme offering, the college's Football Academy has secured a partnership deal with Gillingham FC.

Associate director of sport and leisure Chris Lydon, said: "Students will be able to combine their full-time studies with professional football training as part of the partnership, to be delivered both at Dartford and Medway.

"With Gillingham FC currently competing in League Two of the Football League the partnership gives our students the chance to study while training and representing a professional football club."

CHIPPING AWAY: North West College is offering construction courses in Dartford

Emily-Jo scoops apprentice award

EMILY-JO Howarth from Whitstable has been named Southern Water's Apprentice of the Year.

The 23-year-old received her award at Fontwell Park Racecourse, West Sussex.

She was presented with a toolkit, a cheque for £250, and the winner's trophy shield, by Southern Water's chief executive Matthew Wright.

Emily-Jo is in the second year of her electrical apprenticeship and is based at Weatherlees Wastewater Treatment Works near Ramsgate.

Before joining Southern Water, she worked for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supports Royal Navy ships around the world, supplying them with fuel, ammunition and supplies.

She said: "I wanted a new challenge and a job with a bit more stability. I'm really happy I made the move. It was amazing to win Apprentice of the Year and means all the hard work has paid off.

"I'm really excited about the future."

Mr Wright said the apprentices were a "vital part" of the business, adding: "At a time when we are hearing there are fewer opportunities for young people, it is fantastic this scheme is going from strength to strength. I'd also like to thank the mentors who guide people through their apprenticeships."

For more information on Southern Water's apprenticeships programme, visit www.southernwater.co.uk/workingwithus/apprenticeships.

Theatre crew offer technical advice

A MEDWAY theatre's technical crew will take centre stage when they host a summer workshop that will reveal the tricks of their trade.

The workshop will give wannabe techies the chance to discover the skills involved behind the scenes of theatrical productions and gain real experience of live entertainment.

The course is designed for those who want to take part in theatre – from the village or school hall to amateur or dance company members who book professional theatres and want to arrive with technical knowledge.

The one-week course will include health and safety, tours and show preparation, sound and lighting equipment operation, and stagecraft.

At the end of the week there will be opportunity to do a practical set up and rehearsal before a presentation before friends and family.

There are two one-week courses available, on August 13-17 and August 20-24. Places cost £85. The course is suitable for ages 17 and up.

The workshop will take place at the Central Theatre, Chatham, from 10am-5pm each day, with and 8pm finish on the Friday for the presentation.

For more information and to book a place, call the theatre box office on 01634 338338.

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HeathFarm
Childrens Services
Fostering, Education & Therapy

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE FOSTER CARERS

Heath Farm is a well established, Kent based, independent fostering organisation which has been providing foster care, therapy, contact and specialist education for over 20 years.

Due to the increase in our services, we are looking to recruit more foster carers in your area. We're looking for families who can provide stable, secure and nurturing placements for children and young people in our care.

In return we offer:

- 24 hour support, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- A supervising Social Worker and foster carer mentor
- 23 nights respite per year
- Professional pay structure
- Outstanding training programme up to degree level

If you're interested in fostering for Heath Farm, either as a new carer, or if you're perhaps considering transferring from your current agency, then we would love to hear from you.

Phone Sally on 01233 712030 Ext 240 to book an appointment, or to find out more visit our website www.heathfarm.org

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Care Workers

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- Competitive rates of pay
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- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555
or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

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Earlscliffe

New independent sixth form college in Folkestone opening soon – enrolling now for September 2012 A-Level entry.

A unique, high-quality, personalised education targeting top UK university entry. Small classes; weekly TraC™ testing; enrichment programme, full sports and activities opportunities. Scholarships available for outstanding prospective Lower Sixth candidates.

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REAL

*Assumptions: Retro fitted to existing property situated mid-Kent, exporting 50% of generated electricity. Based On SAP Calculations. Published April 2012

YOUR BUSINESS **IS OUR BUSINESS**

AWARDS

Celebrating countywide success

BUSINESSES across the county are at the forefront of innovative thinking and are getting plenty of recognition for it.

And with 2012 such a momentous year for the UK, Kent is well and truly at the heart of all that is happening – as well as seeing its businesses create international waves.

Gallagher Group, the Maidstone building, civil-engineering and property business, and owner of Hermitage Quarry, is working to ensure that the Olympic facilities are ready for the arrival of the world's biggest sporting event to London.

As the largest source of high-quality Kentish ragstone, Gallagher has been appointed to deliver two schemes for ISG Plc, the principal contractor on behalf of LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games & Paralympic Games).

The schemes are in the Lee Valley, north-east London, home to the White Water Rafting Centre, and Hadleigh Farm, the venue for the Olympic mountain-bike course.

The new work for Gallagher Group follows its restoration of the walls of the River Lee, which runs through the Olympic Park.

Nick Yandle, chief executive of Gallagher Group in Kent, said: "As the last remaining supplier of high-quality Kentish ragstone, Gallagher supplied blocks and coping stones to match the existing Kentish ragstone river walls and leave our own legacy.

"We are delighted and honoured to have played our part in delivering the London Olympic Games. Using locally-sourced indigenous materials is all part of ensuring London is truly 'the sustainable games'."

Sure to be very busy this summer with both the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee is Dover.

Its cruise port and Visit Kent have jointly won the prestigious Cruise Insight's award for best destination experience (organised tours) 2011.

The awards were announced and presented during the Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami, where the two organisations exhibit in the Cruise Britain pavilion.

Kate O'Hara, head of business delivery at Port of Dover, said: "The partnership between Dover Cruise Port and Visit Kent has been extremely successful in promoting the wealth and variety of attractions and themes over the past few years.

"As a result, the joint venture has seen an increase in the number of cruise calls to Dover Cruise Port.

"The award demonstrates the commitment to deliver high levels of customer service and wonderful experiences that passengers continue to enjoy during their stay in Kent."

Two Ashford companies have also gained prestigious awards after beating off tough competition at a ceremony celebrating business excellence.

Rift UK Ltd and Quorum Technologies Ltd took the accolades at the Kent Invicta Chamber Awards held at the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, within the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral.

Rift UK, a tax-refund specialist, took the business-of-the-year award and innovative Quorum Technologies walked away with the achievement-in-international-business accolade.

Two additional companies made it as finalists in the excellence-in-customer-service category – Woodley Coles LLP, based at Challock, and Ashford International Hotel.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "The awards have been a catalyst to promote the excellence in business that is in abundance within Kent.

"The awards were in five categories, and with a record number of entries for each, judges had a difficult time making the selection process."

Andrew Osborne, economic development manager for Ashford Borough Council, said: "The fact that two of this year's award-winners have a base in the borough is fantastic and our congratulations go out to them both.

"It is also great to see two local companies within the finalists for excellence in customer services. This showcases the quality of businesses located in the borough."

Picture: TIM STUBBINGS

Picture: TIM STUBBINGS

FRUITS OF THEIR LABOURS: Clockwise from top... proud Quorum Technologies winners with Yan Bechet, of HSBC; Jan Post, of Rift Ltd, with Lesley Chater, of the University of Kent; restoration work in London's Lee Valley by Gallagher Group

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apta

Purchasing Administrator

Due to continued expansion a market-leading supplier to the garden centre trade now requires a purchasing administrator to join its team.

Reporting to the commercial manager, the role will involve:

- Raising and administration of purchase orders.
- Regular contact with our foreign suppliers to ensure timely delivery of orders.
- Creating, updating and interpreting buying plans and analysing sales trends.
- Arranging import documentation, coordinating container deliveries and receipt of stock.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an ambitious, innovative and rewarding company at a time of sustained growth. The successful candidate will be expected to show an interest in all aspects of the business, and be flexible enough to assist in other areas, including sales and marketing, as required. Excellent prospects exist for progression within the company.

Clear communication and accurate statistical work are vital and the role therefore demands exemplary literacy and numeracy levels. Experience of Excel, Word and Outlook preferred but not essential. An enquiring mind, a willingness to learn and a spark of creativity will also be advantageous.

Starting salary £20,000 plus bonus, with regular reviews.

Written applications in the first instance, enclosing CV and details of current salary, to:
James Hoad
Apta, Dencora Way, Leacon Road,
Fairwood Business Park
Ashford, Kent TN23 4FH
james.hoad@apta.co.uk

MTS Cleansing Services Ltd

LGV Fitter/Technician Required

MTS Cleansing Services Ltd one of the largest liquid waste management services in the South are currently looking to recruit an LGV Class 1 Fitter/Technician to work full time on it's large fleet of DAF, Mercedes-Benz and Foden trucks based at our Head Office in Hoo, Rochester.

Working hours are 2pm - 12pm late shift

Applicants must posses a full LGV Class 1 license and demonstrate previous experience in the maintenance, service and testing of vehicles in preparation for VOSA /MOT test certificates.

Working within a team, the position would suit someone from a mechanical background with a sound knowledge of electrics, and fleet road testing.

The right candidate must be able to demonstrate a flexible attitude to work as they may be required to attend emergency call out situations which could include weekends and nights.

Reporting to the Workshop manager the successful applicant can expect a competitive salary, supplied protective clothing, 20 days holiday, pension and life assurance schemes after a qualifying period.

For further information and an application form please contact the HR department on 01634-257125

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed
22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted a vacancy for the following staff:

Medical Secretary - Flexi Bank (Margate)

Closing date for applications - Friday 27 April 2012

Qualifications
Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent)
Two years experience working in a medical environment

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital
Ramsgate Road, Margate
Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Teach English at Home

- Could you host & teach one or two students (junior or adult)?
- Must have TEFL or recognized teaching qualification
- High standard of accommodation required
- Teaching materials, full support and training workshop provided

For further information call:
01227 722882
ilh www.ilh.com

Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

CHILHAM

Senior Support Worker

Salary from £15,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com.

Alternatively e-mail joan.williams@achuk.com or contact Human Resources 020 8502 8841

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Account Manager Field Based
Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self-motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms. You will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets. Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
You will be building long-lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent.
Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required.
A full driving licence is essential.

Telephone Sales Executive
If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for this job today.
You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.
We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.
Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter to:
Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

Alzheimer's & Dementia SUPPORT SERVICES

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity based in Northfleet, which supports people with dementia and their carers in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley.

We have been awarded funding for three new projects and we are recruiting for the following posts:

Dementia Café Facilitator - 14 hours per week - £6,930 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

There are three dementia cafés presently running monthly in Dartford, Gravesend & Swanley. This post will facilitate these cafés and set up another two cafés in the local area. Dementia Cafés allow open discussion of dementia and its consequences in an informal, social environment in the presence of, and supported by, peers. The person appointed will organise, and facilitate, the cafés which provide a mix of speakers, entertainment and socialising.

Peer Support Facilitator - 18 hours per week - £8,907 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014

This post will set up two Dementia Peer support groups, one in Dartford & one in Gravesham. The groups will run twice a month in each venue. The aim of the role will be to facilitate structured group sessions to discuss their diagnosis of dementia and its consequences in an informal environment in the presence of, and supported by, their peers. The aim is to learn from each other about key areas of concern, experienced symptoms & coping mechanisms.

Dementia Buddy Service - 26 hours per week - £12,866 per annum - Fixed Contract to 31/3/2013

This post will set up, and run, a new service at Darent Valley Hospital. This successful applicant will recruit, train & support volunteers to assist patients with dementia in the hospital by providing social interaction, cognitive stimulation and encouragement with eating & drinking.

All posts are subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check & references. It is expected that applicants will have significant experience of working with people with dementia in a professional setting, managing projects as well as experience of working with volunteers.

For application forms and further information, please call **01474 533990** or email **adminadss@btconnect.com**

Closing date for completed applications is 27th April, 2012.

Interviews will take place in the week commencing 7th May 2012.

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Want to work in a motivated, forward thinking environment?

Thanet Early Years Project is recruiting exceptional staff to join our teams of nursery professionals.

At our Hand in Hand Nursery, Ramsgate:

Senior Practitioner

37.5 hrs pw all year round

Experienced Level 3 Nursery Practitioner

26.25 hrs pw term time only

Experienced Lunchtime Assistant

10 hrs pw term time only (ref HHLA)

At our Growing Together Nursery, Ramsgate:

Experienced Lunchtime Assistant

12.5 hrs pw term time only (ref GT LA)

For our Crèche team working throughout the Thanet area:

2 x Crèche Supervisors

16 hrs pw term time only; car owner and driver essential

2 x Crèche Assistants

(min Level 2) flexible contract; car owner and driver desirable

All applicants must be suitably experienced and hold relevant qualifications, meeting the criteria as set out in the job description and person specification for each role.

Contact Maria on 01843 591200, email her on maria@thanetearlyyears.org or visit our website www.thanetearlyyears.org for an application form and further details of these exciting opportunities.

Thanet Early Years Project is celebrating its 25th years of childcare to the local community, and offers competitive rates of pay, contributory pension scheme, excellent supervision and opportunities for professional development to its staff.

Closing date for receipt of applications: midday 18th May 2012 with interviews planned to take place week commencing 28th May 2012.

All appointments are subject to full enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Key Stage Leader commencing Sept 2012 to lead a Key Stage in this progressive school for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties.

MPS/UPS + TLR 2 (£6,196) + 2 SEN Points

(depending on experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

Interviews will be held on 16th May 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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We are a Health & Nutrition companylooking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

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CARE ASSISTANT

REQUIRED TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOME IN FOLKESTONE

MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE OF THE ELDERLY AND HAVE A MINIMUM OF NVQ 2 IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

POST IS SUBJECT TO ENHANCED CRB DISCLOSURE, COST TO BE MET BY APPLICANT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JULIA ON **01303 254019**

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

NOTICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

FORWARD PLAN

In accordance with Regulations 13 and 14 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 notice is hereby given of the following arrangements in respect of Ashford Borough Council's Forward Plan for the period June 2012 to August 2013.

1. Throughout the period of June 2012 to August 2013 Key Decisions are to be taken on behalf of the Council.
2. The Forward Plan containing particulars of the matters on which decisions are to be taken will be prepared on a monthly basis.
3. The first Forward Plan will contain details of Key Decisions to be made for the four month period commencing June to September 2012 and will also contain a list of the documents submitted to the decision takers for consideration in relation to the Key Decisions within the Plan. This will also include any other documents.
4. The Forward Plan for each four month period will be published and be available for inspection at the address shown below on the dates indicated.

Period of Plan	Date Available for Inspection
June to September 2012	17 May 2012
July to October 2012	15 June 2012
August to November 2012	17 July 2012
September to December 2012	17 August 2012
October 2012 to January 2013	17 September 2012
November 2012 to February 2013	17 October 2012
December 2012 to March 2013	17 November 2012
January to April 2013	17 December 2012
February to May 2013	17 January 2013
March to June 2013	14 February 2013
April to July 2013	17 March 2013
May to August 2013	16 April 2013

Each Plan will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford or at the Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, Tenterden between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. Copies of documents listed within the Forward Plan can be obtained as and when they become available by writing to Mr Keith Fearon, Member Services & Scrutiny Manager, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent or by e-mail: keith.fearon@ashford.gov.uk.

May 2012

T W Mortimer

Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Subzero (2003) Limited trading as Subzero of Noake's Storage, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8AY is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To keep an extra 0 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at Noake's Storage, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8AY.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at: Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 07 MAY 2012

SW/12/0108:

Listed building consent for complete demolition of timber/glass/plastic rear lean to and construction of garden room - Ye Olde Century, Hogbens Hill, SELLING; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0157: Listed building consent for strengthening work to eastern end wall of property and the associated chimney stack - Malt House, Kingsdown Road, LYNSTED; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0306: Variation of condition (3) of planning permission SW/05/0715 to extend occupancy period to 10 months (1st March to 2nd January) - Meadow View Park, The Broadway, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0312 &

SW/12/0313: Change of use from B1 (a) office to one detached dwelling together with alterations and car parking - 2 Roman Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0321: Change of use from garage/staff accommodation to three bed dwelling - Horsehill Farm, Monkshill Road, HERNHILL; **REASON 5**

SW/12/0343: Variation of condition (5) of planning permission SW/10/1403 to vary BREEAM rating from "very good" to "good" - Land r/o Bell Centre, Bell Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0344 &

SW/12/0345: Erection of balcony to rear; change door to window; and replace existing window with patio doors. (Amendments to SW/09/0283 & SW/09/0284) - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0346: Demolition of existing building and re-development of site to provide for 6 detached chalet bungalows and 8 town houses (total 14 dwellings) with associated amenity space, parking, landscaping and access - The Old Dairy, Halfway Road, Halfway, SHEERNESS; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0348: New boiler house in grounds of listed dwelling house - Beacon Hill House, Shottenden Road, BADLESMERE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0358: Variation of condition (ii) of planning permission SW/80/1400 to allow 10 month occupancy (1st March to 2nd January) - Lazy Days Holiday Park, Bell Farm Lane, MINSTER; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0359 &

SW/12/0360: Demolition of existing outbuilding and redevelopment of new two storey commercial office building - Land at Toachim Mews, South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for the Grant of a New Premises Licence

We Maidstone United (Ground) Ltd hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for the grant of a premises license in respect of the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment, and
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at The Gallagher Stadium, James Whatman Way. Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LQ and to be known by the sign of Maidstone United Football Club. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 10th May 2012.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent. ME19 5QP Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286 IN THE PARISHES OF SEVENOAKS WEALD & SEAL

RESTRICTED BYWAY SR286 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Restricted Byway SR286, between The Coach House, Underriver (NGR TQ 550 524) and the junction with Public Footpath SR287 (NGR TQ 547 516) from the 16th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The route will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154 IN THE PARISH OF SEAL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR154 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath SR154, between the eastern end of Green Lane NGR TQ 559 518 and the junction with Underriver House Road from the 16th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th October 2012.

The path is to be closed because a depot associated with the pipeline construction is to be located on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Nicky Biddall

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZU1 at Kemsley Drain (NGR TQ 919 654) approximately 250 metres north of new Milton Creek road bridge from the 12th April 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the work should be completed in 3 months.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a track and a temporary bridge and will be marked for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16, AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS, MT49 AND MT50 IN THE PARISH OF SHIPBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR392, MT15, MT17A, MT16 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS MT49 AND MT50 PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpaths MR392 at NGR TQ 578 517, MT15 at NGR TQ 583 512, MT17A at NGR TQ 583 512, MT16 at NGR TQ 588 511, and Public Bridleways MT49 at NGR TQ 583 509 and MT50 at NGR TQ 589 509 from 16th April 2012

The Routes will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The Routes will be closed because works are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users

Alternative routes will be signed for the duration of the works.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 IN THE PARISH OF EAST PECKHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR548 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR548 from Branbridges Road to NGR TQ674 485 from the 10th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users

There is an alternative route along the site boundary and this will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 22 April 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/02026/LB: Milestone Cottage, Canterbury Road, Bramling, Ickham, CT3 1NB Insertion of window on gable end. **Applicant: Mr Stephen Wright** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00135/ADV: 21-24 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Illuminated fascia signage and projecting sign, applied lettering to wall and vinyls applied internally to windows. **Applicant: Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00172/FUL: 96 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8UF First-floor rear extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Dr Wilson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00214/ADV: Highland Court Farm, Patrixbourne, Bridge, CT4 5HW Installation of two non-illuminated free-standing post mounted signs and one non-illuminated wall-mounted fascia sign. **Applicant: The Co-operative Farms** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00265/FUL: Orchard House, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LN Erection of wall with gate to side of dwelling; alteration of field access from Maypole Road, associated formation of driveway and erection of wall and gates. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hawken** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00266/LB: Orchard House, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LN Erection of wall with gate to side of dwelling; alteration of field access from Maypole Road, associated formation of driveway and erection of wall and gates. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hawken** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00298/FUL: 72 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8EB Replacement upvc windows to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr Towman** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00314/ADV: Age Concern, Castle Row, Canterbury, CT1 2QY Two non-illuminated wall-mounted signs. **Applicant: Age UK Canterbury** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00325/FUL: 121 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8EF Creation of new vehicle access to Whitstable Road to serve nos 119A and 119B with associated alterations to access parking and turning arrangement; erection of front boundary wall and relocation of entrance gates. **Applicant: Mr E Pellumbi** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00392/FUL: Morville, Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1SJ Erection of single-storey extension and garage to side elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Barnes** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00408/VAR: Cornerstone, Maypole Lane, Hoath, CT3 4LP Variation of condition 10 of planning permission CA/11/1945/FUL relating to the code for sustainable construction. **Applicant: Mr P Tatham** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00439/FUL: 14 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Replacement front door. **Applicant: Mr G Bush** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00467/ADV: 5-7 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Installation of 1 no internally illuminated hanging box sign. **Applicant: H & M** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00493/FUL: Greenways, Beech Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AU Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two-storey side extension to dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr A Creighton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00504/FUL 62 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3JH Erection of a detached two-storey dwelling. **Applicant: Mr S Howard** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00536/LB: The Penny Theatre, 30-31 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BL Externally illuminated sign, replacement hanging sign and new lantern above entrance door. **Applicant: Stonegate Pub Company** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00538/LB: 42 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Replacement of 1 no fascia sign to front elevation. **Applicant: Tui UK Retail Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00541/LB: 24 The Close, Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5NJ Internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr A Gladin** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00543/ADV: 42 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Replacement of 1 no fascia sign and 1 no wooden projecting sign to front elevation. **Applicant: Tui UK Retail Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00607/FUL: 34 Hillside Paddocks, Blean Hill, Blean CT2 9EF Retention of touring caravan. **Applicant: Mrs C Mitchell** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 14 May.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 20 April 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0450/N - POSTE COTTAGE, 27, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TR - Replacement of front ground floor casement windows with like for like timber casement windows. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0451/N - POSTE COTTAGE, 27, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TR - Application for listed building consent to replace front ground floor casement windows with like for like timber casement windows. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0526/N - VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HUNTSMAN LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DT - Construction of new sports hall with changing rooms. **Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **6th May 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 22nd April 2012

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 26 April 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/AS/0116/2012 - Proposed development at Wye Wastewater Treatment Works, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent, TN25 5DU.

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade of wastewater treatment works with new Humus Tanks and MCC Kiosk.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 22 April 2012

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00997/FUL **Beacon Hill Farm Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Installation of an 11 kW GAIA wind turbine mounted on a free standing 18m steel mast on a 5m2 concrete base (MAST)

12/00960/HOUSE **1 The White House High Street, Brenchley**
- Single-storey extension with catslide roof and two conservation rooflights and internal alterations to provide kitchen diner and bedroom 3, and brick/stone boundary wall to replace fence (LB)

12/00961/LBC **1 The White House High Street, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Single-storey extension with catslide roof and two conservation rooflights and internal alterations to provide kitchen diner and bedroom 3, and brick/stone boundary wall to replace fence (LB)

12/00043/FUL **36 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Change of use for storage area to a one-bed studio flat (CA)

12/00990/LBC **Colts Hill Farmhouse Colts Hill, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Realignment of existing drive, new access gates and timber fencing (LB)

12/00965/HOUSE **20B Molyneux Park Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Two storey side extension, provision of two parking spaces (CA)

12/00980/FUL **Neville House 77 Mount Ephraim, Culverden**
- Two 3 storey semi-detached townhouses and parking (CA) (LB)

12/00842/HOUSE **Rockdene Rocks Hill, Frittenden**
- Retrospective - Open bay garage building and shed (PROW)

12/00992/HOUSE **Smugley Barn Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Replacement timber windows on all elevations (LB)

12/00866/FUL **Manor Farm Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Livestock building, office and store (PROW)

12/00954/HOUSE **8 The Slade Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst**
- Two storey side extension, internal alterations and detached wooden garage (CA)

12/00995/HOUSE **Mile Oak Oast Mascalls Court Lane, Paddock Wood**
- New two bay garage and store room (LB)

12/00956/HOUSE **7 Clifton Place Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Loft conversion to include new slate clad dormer to rear elevation and removal of existing chimney to rear (CA)

12/00982/HOUSE **37 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolition of single storey rear extension, shed and greenhouse. Single storey rear extension and three bay garage (CA)

12/00984/CAC **37 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of single storey rear extension, shed and greenhouse (CA)

12/00953/HOUSE **2 Henwoods Crescent Pembury, Pembury**
- Single storey extension and minor internal alterations (LB)

12/00904/HOUSE **Three Chimneys House Biddenden, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Replacement of lead roof with lead substitute (Retrospective) (LB)

12/00905/LBC **Three Chimneys House Biddenden, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of lead roof with lead substitute (work already carried out) (LB)

12/00972/FUL **Kent Community Housing Trust Hartley House, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Extension of car parking area (LB)

12/00986/FUL **Kent Community Housing Trust Hartley House, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Extension to Hardy and Camden Wings (LB)

12/00827/LBC **14 Church Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal in part of existing brick built single storey extension and construct a single storey brick rear extension (LB)

12/00900/HOUSE **Holden House Holden Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Cottage in side garden ancillary to the main house for staff accomodation (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.
We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 21 April 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0200/SH - Hook House Church Lane Brenzett Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a stable block, (development affecting a public footpath).

Y12/0236/SH# - Stockbridge House Ashford Road Stockbridge Snave Ashford - Listed building consent for the partial demolition and rebuild to include new foundations.

Y12/0274/SH - Land Rear 18 - 20 Radnor Park Avenue Folkestone Kent - Outline application for the erection of 13 dwellings, inclusive of access and layout with associated parking and the construction of a separate car park for Folkestone Sports Centre.

Y12/0352/SH - Ropewalk House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of a Holly tree and crown reduction and crown thin of an Apple tree, both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0328/SH+ - The New House The Street Postling Hythe Kent - Crown reduction of a Willow tree and a Sycamore tree, both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0354/SH+ - Heppinge Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Felling of a Conifer tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0351/SH - Wellington House New Road Elham Canterbury Kent - 3m partial crown lift and reduction of four limbs of a Beech tree, subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 1955.

Y12/0273/SH - The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Listed Building Consent for the installation of fire alarm system and emergency lighting to outer foyer entrance off Metropole Road East.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
7. This application would affect trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 07 MAY 2012

SW/12/0081:
Construction of 4 x 4 bedroom detached dwellings and associated vehicle parking, plus the realignment of Rook Lane - Land at Rook Lane, BOBBING; **REASON 7**

SW/12/0320:
Relocation of access - Copton Thatch, 15/16 Ashford Road, SHELDWICH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0346:
Demolition of existing bungalow and re-development of site to provide for 6. no detached chalet bungalows and 8 no. town houses (total 14 dwellings) with associated amenity space, parking, landscaping and access - The Old Dairy, Halfway Road, Halfway, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/12/0418:

Change of use of land for the mixed use of agriculture and keeping of horses with the provision of three new stables, tack rooms, haystore, and sand school - Land at Breach Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Development Services

HIGHWAYS

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road (Blowers Hill) from the Railway Bridge to Junction of Cow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 6th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence

on 10th May 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Road, Hartfield Road, Station Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate railway bridge examination works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

DOWNS ROAD PASSAGE, FOLKESTONE (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Downs Road Passage, Folkestone, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The closure is for its entire length, from between house numbers 153 and 153A Downs Road to the junction with Park Farm Road.

The alternative route is via the walkway between house numbers 83 and 85 Downs Road, Moat Farm Road, Downside and Park Farm Road.

Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOTTOM POND ROAD WORMSHILL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bottom Pond Road Wormshill between Pond Farm and Norwood Farm on or after 24th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Bottom Pond Road, Frinsted Lane/The Street, Glossy Hill Road, Bottom Pond Road and vice versa

Bt apologise for any inconvenience caused by essential cabling works to restore customer service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Mandy Richardson on 03700500792

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(MILL STREET, EAST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street outside of 157 on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via New Road, Chapman Way, Winterfield Lane, Clare Lane.

Crown Utilities Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install mains and services at the development. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Michaela Radford on 0800 027 5052.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 22 April 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the renovation of the Southern Water Treatment Works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order amending the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Bridge Street, Wye.

This takes effect on or after 7 May 2012 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The effect of this is to suspend the One-way Order to allow construction traffic to travel in the reverse direction, when the specific traffic control and signage is in place.

This applies to the section of Bridge Street between Churchfield Way and the approach to the treatment works, and only applies to construction traffic involved in the renovation works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

WOOLAGE GREEN ROAD, WOOLAGE GREEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a new electricity cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, on or after 28 April 2012 for up to 2 days.

If it is not possible to complete these works within this period, it may also be necessary to close the road on the weekend of 5 and 6 May 2012.

The road will be closed between properties Walnut Tree Cottage and Sunningdale.

There will be no through access through the village.

The alternative route is via Wick Lane, Firs Road and Woolage Green Road.

HIGHWAYS -Borough of Dartford

PRIORY ROAD SOUTH, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Priory Road South, Dartford between Westgate Road and Victoria Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate Road, Highfield Road North, West Hill, Priory Hill and Priory Place

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works.

HIGHWAYS -District of Dover

CHERRY LANE, MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cherry Lane, Mongeham, on or after 23 April 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pixwell Lane and Mongeham Road.

The alternative route is via Mongeham Road and Northbourne Road.

DUKE STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Duke Street, Deal, on or after 8 May 2012 for up to 3 days.

The road will be closed between the junctions with West Street and High Street.

The alternative route is via West Street, Stanhope Road and High Street.

NAPCHESTER ROAD, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow of safe access for phone cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Napchester Road, Whitfield, on or after 24 April 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 41.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with The Drove and Church Whitfield Road.

The alternative route is via The Drove, Sandwich Road and Church Whitfield Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT)

(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 12) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order prohibits waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne	On the east side of the road, from a point 3m South west of the boundary of numbers 92 and 94 Capel Street, in a southerly direction for a distance of 26m

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 26 April 2012 and will come into operation on 30 April 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

LOWER HIGHAM ROAD/CHALK ROAD, CHALK (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council had made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Higham Road/Chalk Road, Chalk from A226 Rochester Road (Lion Roundabout).

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 days between the hours of 09:30 - 15:30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be: For vehicles approaching Chalk Road - A226 Rochester Road. For vehicles to access lower Higham Road - A226 Rochester Road, A226 Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane, Chalk Road and Lower Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(CHURCH STREET, LOOSE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Street, outside Church House Loose on or after Tuesday 8th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via High Banks and Old Loose Hill.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay duct in the carriageway. Should you require any further information contact is Clinton Simmonds on 07810 504808.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82, 83, 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce an extension to the 30 mph Speed Limit on the following length of road:

Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	From the existing 30 mph speed limit on the northern side of Grafty Green for a distance of approximately 1100 metres in a northerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21st May 2012.

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (NO RIGHT AND LEFT HAND TURNS) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF ENTRY) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF LOADING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (STREET PARKING PLACES) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011 (HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS)

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

(PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES) THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, has made experimental Orders the effect of which have temporarily suspended various restrictions in Bank Street, High Street, King Street, Mill Street and Pudding Lane, Maidstone for a period of up to 18 months and replaced them with experimental waiting, loading and access restrictions. This work is connected with environmental highway improvements in the High Street which has been the subject of earlier consultations.

The purpose of carrying out consultation on experimental restrictions is to enable the proposals to be flexible so that all of the needs of the community are met. In the event that the Council considers the experiment has been successful during a period of operation not exceeding 18 months from commencement, and that it should be made permanent, a further Notice will be published.

As a part of this process, representations can be made by individuals and organisations affected by the proposals either in support or to highlight concerns, during the period of operation of the experimental Orders. This will be a minimum of sixth months and could be up to a maximum of eighteen months from Friday 27th April 2012.

The proposals for the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project aim to improve how the High Street looks, feels and works. The completed scheme will see less road space given over to vehicles and a new public space created in front of the Town Hall.

The wider pavements and new raised crossing points as detailed in Schedule 1, will make the street more people-friendly, whilst maintaining access for buses, taxis, loading vehicles and blue badge holders. High quality surfaces will be laid across the pavements, crossings and newly created space, which will attract shoppers and tourists, and encourage them to relax and spend time there.

Entry for all motorised vehicles into the area will be via Pudding Lane, whilst access will be maintained into the High Street and King Street for buses, taxis and cycles only and into Mill Street from its junction with Palace Avenue for buses only. Exit from the area is permitted via any of the routes.

Restrictions to be suspended are as follows:

Bank Street:	Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Waiting.
High Street:	Prohibition of Driving in Bus Lanes, No entry Except for Buses (Lower Section - Southbound & Northern Section - Both Directions), Prohibition of Loading, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Taxi Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.
King Street (Part):	Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Loading, Prohibition of Waiting.
Mill Street (Part)	Prohibition of Loading, Designated Parking Places at Pay and Display Machines, Designated Disabled Person's Vehicles Parking Places, Designated Motor Cycle Parking Places, Designated Coach Parking Places, Designated Goods Vehicle Parking Places, Prohibition of Waiting.
Pudding Lane (Part):	Prohibition of Driving, Prohibition of Waiting.

As part of the proposals the existing Pelican Crossing currently located on King Street, Maidstone 20 metres east of its junction with the High Street will be removed. This will allow for the relocation of an existing taxi rank which is currently located on the south side of the High Street 30 metres west of its junction with the Gabriel's Hill.

The signalised junction located at the southern end of the High Street at its junction with Mill Street will be removed prior to the installation of a new pedestrian crossing at a point level with the south side of the junction of Mill Street with Bank Street.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders to enable a vehicle to wait with Police permission, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the roads affected by the proposals, for use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority and for access to off street facilities, car parking areas and vehicular accesses.

Copies of the Experimental Orders which shall come into operation on Friday 27th April 2012 for an experimental period of not more than 18 months, an explanatory statement and plan showing the extent of the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ.

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with The Kent County Council to collate views on the proposed measures during the experimental period. As previously stated, organisations or individuals affected by the proposals have a statutory right to make representations either in support or to raise concerns about the experimental orders during the first six months of its operation.

All representations regarding the proposals should be made during the period of the experimental order in writing to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB or by email to diane.bourne@jacobs.com, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1742500".

Schedule 1 of 2

Flat Top Raised Table

(Raised flat top table 30mm in height and 6 metres long, including approach ramps over the full width of the carriageway)

1. High Street, Maidstone
   - (a) 14 metres south west of its junction with Pudding Lane
   - (b) 43 metres south west of its junction with Week Street
   - (c) At its junction with Week Street
   - (d) 5 metres west of its junction with Wyke Manor Road

Schedule 2 of 2

Flat Top Raised Table

(Raised flat top table 30mm in height and 23 metres long, including approach ramps over the full width of the carriageway)

1. High Street, Maidstone
   - (a) At its junction with Week Street

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

STATION ROAD (BLOWERS HILL) COWDEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Spring into Summer

T.K.maxx H&M RIVER ISLAND new look DEBENHAMS next DOROTHY PERKINS YOUR M&S TOPSHOP

Submariners past and present out of the deep for a very special date

SEE PAGE 49

AN INN JOKE

Al Murray's pub landlord comes to the seaside

SEE PAGE 51

Kent Weekend

Pugin's place

The astonishing home of one of England's most revered architects

SEE PAGE 50

PLUS: The replica Bronze Age boat finally making it out to the sea - **the interview p45** Energy-saving measures win awards for housing group - **property p53** Fall in love with Volkswagen's latest bug - **driving p57**

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THE INTERVIEW

Richard Darrah

Voyage back to the Bronze Age

A model of a 3,600-year-old boat unearthed in Dover is being taken out on a 'shakedown cruise' next month. **Nick Ames** learns more.

A HALF-SIZED replica of Dover's Bronze Age boat takes to the water next month in a bid to help modern mariners get a better idea of the challenges that faced their ancient forebears.

The vessel is under construction in the grounds of the town's museum, where the original artefact is housed in a protective case.

The boat is believed to be some 3,600 years old and was discovered 20 years ago.

Since then, the vessel, which would have been used to trade between Kent and the Continent, has been a prized exhibit in the museum. However, this is the first time that an effort has been made to test out, as far as possible, how it would handle in the water.

A date of Saturday, May 5, has been set for the "shakedown cruise" off the Kent coast, but that is still to be confirmed.

Craftsman Trevor Marsden is working on the project. "We've all got our fingers crossed we can make that," he said. "I'm hoping to be part of the crew when we start the sea trials – it should be a very interesting experience."

Backing for the reconstruction has come from the Two Seas fund, which is supported by both Kent County Council and the European Union, along with the charitable fund established by former-Saga-owner-turned-millionaire-philanthropist Roger de Haan.

Richard Darrah, pictured, is the man tasked with getting the replica boat afloat.

He said: "We have re-created it to half-scale, so it is around 30 feet long. The only things – along with the crew – that are full-sized will be the paddles, as trying to propel the craft with half-sized ones would be impossible.

"The original craft would have had a crew of around 20, maybe 16, rowers and a couple of people constantly bailing out water – we will have eight on board. It would have been used to trade items between communities, and the crew would also have the task of protecting their valuable goods.

"In good weather, a direct Dover to France crossing with favourable tides would have taken around four hours. But if tides were not advantageous, the crew would have found themselves taking 12 hours to cross.

"Longer voyages would see the boat hugging the coast and the crew beaching it at night, when provisions would be gathered."

As with the original vessel, timbers on the replica have been fitted together to form a hull and keel, with yew-stitching holding them firm. The ancient method of waterproofing with moss and beeswax has also been followed.

September 1990 was when the historic boat first saw the light of day after the Bronze Age, which lasted between about 5000BC and 2000BC.

It was uncovered as work was being carried out on a Dover subway that was constantly being flooded. A sump was dug out to drain off the water and it revealed a Medieval town wall, part of a Roman quayside and then the boat as archaeologists alerted to the first find delved further back through the ages.

The remains had been sealed in silt, preventing the spread of bacteria that would have caused the wooden hull to decay.

Trade routes in the Bronze Age can be traced by artefacts from different cultures being uncovered away from their places of origin.

It is likely that the Dover to France route was one of the most popular, by virtue of its short distance, despite the often dangerous tides.

Others would have seen goods from the Mediterranean, southern France and Spain coming to Britain via Brittany and ending up in Hampshire, Devon and Dorset, while both Dover and Thanet would have been the destination for items originating in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany.

These would have been transported down European rivers to northern France and then across the Channel.

A shipwreck uncovered by divers in 1974 at Langdon Bay, close to Dover, gives a good idea of the goods that would have been carried.

Items brought to the surface dated from the later part of the Bronze Age and were of design and workmanship associated with tribes living in ancient France.

A boat of the period could have taken about three tonnes in cargo, which could have included stone for building, livestock, clothing, jewellery, pots and pans, cups and weapons such as swords, daggers, spears and axes.

Darrah said: "The same sort of communities would have existed on both sides of the Channel by the coast and evidence suggests they were richer than those further inland.

"We cannot say for certain, but it is possible that, as well as the crew, the boat may have carried a priest-like figure on board. It would have been believed he could help to ensure the success of the voyage.

"Trade would most likely have been run as a tribal monopoly, with the skills in making and crewing the vessel being passed on through the generations."

Along with the original boat, Dover Museum contains artefacts from the period and replicas of the era's tools as well as a small life-sized re-creation of a hut, with human figures and livestock.

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Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP5-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, festive food, a 99p Bar every night, refurbished chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly – Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value – Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful – Mrs Norman of Sidcup

Friendly atmosphere, good company – no children – Mr Gardiner of Kent

What Readers said about our Private Party Break at Pontin's Pakefield in March

Bruges & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise Party

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, *Ebbsfleet & Ashford

4 days, all-inclusive

Quote CX12-KOS

From £429pp

1 & 4 December, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed cruise, taking-in Bruges, Ghent, Ostend and an array of fabulous Christmas markets. Our floating hotel, the ms Princess, will deliver us to each town in comfort and style with everything on board included - all drinks from 9am to midnight, breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks and entertainment. Our journey to join the cruise in Belgium experiences the thrill and convenience of European rail travel.

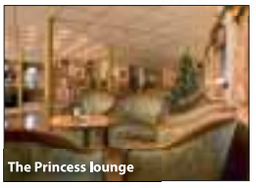
INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout

Bruges at Christmas time

ms Princess

cabins


The Princess lounge

- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ashford/Ebbsfleet on request) to Ghent/Ostend
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Plenty of entertainment at Pontin's Pakefield

Suffolk Coast Midweek Breaks

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village

Self-Drive - 4 nights, half board

Quote PM-KOS

£89pp

30 April; 7 & 14 May; 11 & 18 June, 2012

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts – PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities
- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- Entertainment every day

Jeff Hooper's Big Band

Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

From £159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill Rythe Resort on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy hearty hospitality, great entertainment, including Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons. To keep the party mood alive there's a 99p Bar every night.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

Warner Norton Grange has a super sea shore location

Isle of Wight Christmas Party 2012

For over 40s only

Warner Norton Grange Resort

Self drive, 3 nights, drinks-inclusive

Quote XN11-KOS

£199pp

30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without GN Holidays annual Christmas Party Extravaganza. The 2012 event – for over 40s only – will be the usual blend of fun and festivities. Norton Grange Resort - nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth - will be decked out for the Festive season. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during your stay, you will enjoy Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- Car ferry crossing

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

This is one waggon that I'll be happy to jump on again

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

GOSSIPPING over a drink with a long-lost friend meant it was easily half an hour before we looked at the menu on Saturday night, but our waitress at the Waggon at Hale's restaurant was perfectly happy to let us get on with things... even if that meant that by the time we were finally ready to order, the larger table next to us had also made their choices.

Such bad timing on our part had little effect on the wait for our food, though, with my trio of prawns (£5.95) and my guest's breaded Camembert (£5.25) arriving in perfect time.

My guest selected easily the best of the starters, three perfectly-sized rounds of melting Camembert, with cranberry compote and mixed salad leaves that were polished off in seconds and finally managed to end our chatter.

The prawns were equally as delicious, coming with a sweet chilli dipping sauce and salad – the menu told me I was getting tempura, filo and Japanese prawns. All three were delicious, but my one complaint of the night was that there was little to indicate which prawns were which.

Moving on to our mains, the 8oz rump steak with Jack Daniels glaze (£12.95) was cooked just to my guest's taste. Served up with chips and salad, this was a good-sized meal, with the

tangy glaze an unusual but welcome twist.

My home-made fisherman's pie with seasonal veg (£9.75) was equally tasty. Smothered in a beautiful potato mash, the chunks of cod, salmon, smoked haddock and prawns infused with cheese, chilli and lemon were heaven, and as I found myself nearing my limits of fullness I was forced to leave some of the potato in favour of the succulent fish pieces.

Throughout the meal our waitress had been perfectly attentive, checking we were happy and chatting with us when we asked questions. Before we had even looked at the menu she had told us of the specials and apologised because the fillet of cod was off the menu that evening but that there was cod on the bar menu, from which we were welcome to order.

This great service, coupled with a modern but relaxed environment, meant we had no qualms about loitering over our drinks before tackling the dessert menu.

The New York cheesecake (£4.25) and chocolate-fudge cake (£4.50) were as delicious as you'd expect, only I'd been so greedy I was again forced to leave some of mine. Instead we relaxed over a couple of coffees as the waitress had assured us there was no hurry to leave.

Three courses of delicous food and a few drinks from the bar gave a total bill of £62.65.

Delicious food, a great environment and excellent service mean I'll definitely be returning to the Waggon, maybe to one of its many special events. A day visit will also be on the cards to meet the small menagerie in the beer garden, including a micro-pig called Crackling.

A year after its transformation, the Waggon at Hale has become a must-visit destination.

Erica Jones

■ **Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP. Telephone: 01634 400800; web: www.waggonathale.co.uk**

Old British tearoom is a return to tradition

A NEW tearoom with a traditional theme has been opened at one of Kent's leading tourist attractions.

The Salutation Tea Room has been unveiled at The Secret Gardens of Sandwich to be ready for the summer season.

Situated in the Old Gatehouse, it features many of the characteristics of the original tea-room and evokes the refined and elegant Edwardian pastime of 'taking tea'.

The quaint eatery will offer a selection of teas, coffees, luxury cakes and pastries for anyone looking for a traditional bite out in east Kent.

The Secret Gardens are encircled by the old town walls, blocking out noise and allowing for serenity in the middle of town.

Pantiles festival back for its second year

ONE of the newest additions to the county's culinary calendar is returning for a second year.

The Pantiles Food and Drink Festival is back at Tunbridge Wells on the weekend of May 19-20.

Supported by Produced in Kent and the county council, as well as by local business, last year's event attracted more than 15,000 people.

About 40 stalls have already been allocated, selling hot and cold food, fresh produce and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink.

Four chefs from some of the area's most popular dining venues are lined up to display their talents in the demonstration kitchen.

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FOOD & DRINK A taste of spring: Six of the Best

Oriental Buffet
Tonbridge

Why here...
The Oriental Buffet has been under new management since January and offers the chance to feast on all of your favourite cuisines.
"Quality without compromise" is the key here.

On the menu...
With more than 50 items from which to choose and five styles of cuisine, there really is something for everyone. No more arguing about whether to go for an Indian or Chinese, a Thai or Nepalese!

How to book...
96 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1AP
phone: 01732 361666.
Book now!

The season to skip forth and savour

WITH spring now upon us, there is no place like the Garden of England when it comes to taking a ride out and having a fine meal.

With the evenings getting lighter by the day and the promise of an English summer just around the corner, now is the ideal time of year to sample the range of food and drink on offer in the county's pubs and restaurants.

Kent got its moniker from the huge variety of produce that farmers, fishermen and brewers have been able to bring to the market and then to the table.

Dover sole, Romney Marsh lamb and Kentish strawberries are just three of the world-class products that come straight from the county.

Then there are the top-class vegetables that spring from the fertile soils of our farms.

And when washed down with some of the local award-winning wines, beers and ciders, the whole experience is a treat that will linger long in the memory.

The beautiful countryside of the county produces a wonderful backdrop to the whole dining experience.

Kent eateries pride themselves on sourcing as much produce as possible from local establishments – and with such a wide and excellent range available that is surely the wisest course to take.

Away from the countryside, historic towns also boast top-class cafés, restaurants and pubs serving high-quality dishes prepared by talented chefs and served by keen and knowledgeable staff.

So with spring here, it's over to you to get out and enjoy!

The Barge
Maidstone

Why here...
The Barge Restaurant offers imaginative and expertly-cooked modern European food in an elegant but relaxed environment permanently moored on the River Medway. Ingredients are sourced locally.

On the menu...
A range of regularly-changing menus and a carefully-selected wine list, offering wines from Europe and the New World.
Enjoy three courses from the à la carte for £19.50.

How to book...
Phone free 0808 1661024 or book at www.the-barge.co.uk.
River Medway, rear of Archbishop's Palace ME15 6YE

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county. The dishes change on a regular basis to coincide with the seasons, and wherever possible the team incorporates Kent produce.
The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent. It is an ideal venue for family gatherings large or small.

On the menu...
Start your meal with smoked-mackerel-and-caper pâté with pickled cucumber, horseradish cream and granary toast followed by paupiettes of plaice, prawn mousse, shellfish sauce and Duchess potato. Top off your meal with pear-and-almond tart, crème Anglaise and honey ice-cream.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com

The Acorn Inn
Birchington

Why here...
The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer you a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...
There is a good selection, from fish to meat, on the à la carte menu, where prices range from £4.95 to £18.95. Every Thursday is steak night. Sunday roasts are available from midday-4.30pm.

How to book...
The Acorn Inn,
6 Park Lane,
Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, The Red Lion has a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food.
You can choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.
There are few better places to enjoy springtime in Kent than The Red Lion. The wonderful Forest of Blean is close, while the surrounding open countryside is glorious.

On the menu...
The à la carte menu has a wide selection for all tastes, with many meals costing less than £10. Meats available include pork, lamb and beef. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and from 6pm-9pm; on Sundays it is served from midday to 8pm. The bar is open in normal pub hours.

How to book...
The Red Lion,
Crockham Lane, Hernhill
ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Waggon at Hale
Chatham

Why here...
A well-run family pub with good food, drinks and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. All ages are welcome; in fact in the garden there is a mini family farm with chickens, rabbits and a miniature pig.

On the menu...
The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, the Thai fishcakes or the Waggon burger... handmade with Angus Scotch beef.

How to book...
179 Capstone Road, Chatham
ME5 7PP
phone: 01634 400800
web: www.waggonathale.co.uk

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

KENT ATTRACTIONS

Wild nights at top of the list

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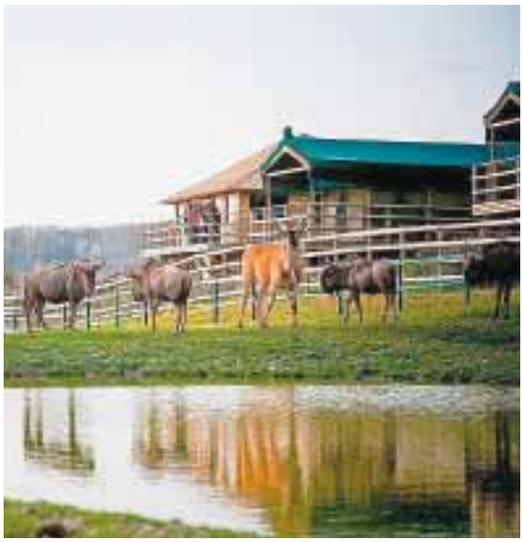

LIVINGSTONE Lodge, the African-themed overnight experience at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, has been listed as a finalist in the Visit England Awards For Excellence 2012.
The attraction is up for an accolade in the Best Tourism Experience category of the awards.
Director Bob O'Connor said: "It is an absolute honour to be nominated as a finalist in this category – these awards really are a credit to the dedicated team who work hard to make this an exceptional product."
The winners will be announced on Tuesday, May 22, and all finalists are guaranteed to receive either a gold, silver, bronze or highly-commended award in their respective categories.
Livingstone Lodge offers visitors a night under the stars and the chance to watch zebras, giraffes and others at the nearby watering hole.
The experience includes African fine dining and safaris.

Submariners' tribute

Ocelot's 50th birthday

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Saturday, May 12
01634 823826; www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard at Chatham is holding a day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the launch of HM Submarine Ocelot.
The Ocelot was the last warship built for the Royal Navy at the dockyard, marking the end of 400 years of ship-building.
A church service will be followed by a parade led by the Band of HM Royal Marines, submariners past and present and the Royal Naval Reserve.
The opening of a submarine exhibition and the dockyard's new Steam, Steel and Submarines gallery will also take place.

Droves of dreadlocks

Reggae's finest head to One Love Festival

The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood
Friday to Sunday, August 10-2
0843 224 9001
www.onelovefestival.co.uk

THE sights and sounds of the Caribbean will transform a slice of Kent during a three-day music festival inspired by Jamiacan culture.
The fifth One Love Festival, being held at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood, will be a visual, audio and cultural explosion celebrating 50 years of Jamaican independence as well as some top names from the reggae world.
Straight from the West Indies, legend Freddie McGregor and dancehall king Frankie Paul headline the festival, which is also packed full of more new-school dubstep bands.
Others making the Caribbean crossing will be Studio 1 singer Cornel Campbell, heavy-beats band Dub Syndicate and son of the legendary Gregory Isaacs, Kevin Issacs.
The festival is set across four stages and hosts the largest programme of reggae films ever shown in Europe.

Relive a Tudor coronation

Royal romance

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
Saturday to Tuesday, June 2-5
01732 865224
www.hevercastle.co.uk

JUNE will see romantic Hever Castle celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a number of special events.
Join the royal celebration as Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn revisit Anne's coronation in a weekend of Tudor entertainment including have-a-go archery and demonstrations from craftsmen of the period.
There will be copies of the crown jewels on show, along with a competition for the best- dressed prince and princess.
The month also sees the English rose garden reach the peak of perfection with the scent of 4,000 roses.
You can also take in the Long Gallery's A Royal Romance exhibition.

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Tickets from £25 Doors open at 7pm
www.dickensworld.co.uk

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Mirror Mirror (PG)
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (12A)
Streetdance 2 3D (PG)
The Cabin in the Woods 2D (15)
The Hunger Games (12A)
The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists 2D (U)
Titanic 3D (12A)
Wrath of the Titans 3D (12A)
21 Jump Street (15)

ODEON KIDS
Gnomeo and Juliet 2D (U)
SENIOR SCREEN
J. Edgar (15)
NEWBIES
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (12A)
OTHER CINEMA
W.E (15)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Ellen Kent is back...
with a Puccini pair

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1-2
01892 530613
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

ELLEN Kent returns to Tunbridge Wells with two Puccini classics – Madama Butterfly (on 1st) and La Bohème (the following evening).
After a two-year break to concentrate on other projects, the opera-producer's comeback tour has proved a triumph and features the Ukrainian National Opera of Kharkiv.
The new production of La Bohème features a few surprises alongside the stunning sets and glorious music.
The story is based on Henri Murger's novel La Vie de Bohème and focuses on the love between seamstress Mimi and poet Rodolfo. International sopranos Maria Tsonina and Elena Dee take the leading roles.

Puppets know the score
Wartime tale

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Tue to Sat, April 24-28
0208 2908261
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

THE Churchill Theatre is hosting a production of Dick King-Smith's The Crowstarver.
Few anticipated the huge success of War Horse, which progressed from a child's book to the stage to an internationally-acclaimed film.
Similarly, The Crowstarver is written by prolific children's author Dick King Smith and has now been adapted for stage with the use of puppetry.
Set in the Second World War, The Crowstarver combines an action-packed and heart-warming story with powerful performances, beguiling animal puppets and a stunning score.
The cast stars Malcolm Hamilton, one of TV's 118 men.
Tickets for the production are priced from £26-£50.

A funny night on the Toon
Sarah Millican

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Monday, April 23, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE new geordie queen of comedy Sarah Millican is bringing her new show to The Marlowe Theatre.
Thoroughly Modern Millican is the latest work from the up-and-coming star, who has already featured heavily on panel shows such as Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Mock The Week.
The show is a mish-mash of brainwaves and experiments as Millican contemplates how to make a home-made treadmill, the practicalities of an orgy and what to do when you don't like parties but do like party food.
After already selling out all 120 dates on her debut tour last year, this new gig, which is suitable for people aged 16 and above, is sure to be a laugh.
Tickets are priced at £20.

The home that Pugin built
Open to all...

The Grange, Ramsgate
Friday to Monday, April 20-23
01628 825925
www.landmarktrust.org.uk

THE Grange in Ramsgate is being opened to the public to celebrate the 200th anniversary of one of its most famous inhabitants.
The Grade I-listed house was designed and lived in by the influential and prolific 19th-century architect and designer Augustus Pugin and in 2012 there will be celebrations of his achievements to mark the anniversary of his birth.
Visitors can see the library, where Pugin designed the House of Lords interiors.
It is testament to his skill and influence that many of Britain's Victorian buildings look like The Grange, especially as Pugin built few domestic houses.
He also began the construction of St Augustine's monastery next door.
The Grange's £2.6 million restoration was completed by The Landmark Trust in 2006.

STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

When life can be a drag...
Raining Men

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thu to Sat, April 26-28
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com

FOR three nights month it will be raining men in Gravesend as this cracking hit show comes to town.
As part of the theatre's new season of shows, Raining Men promises to give audiences a hilarious, sparkling, naughty evening, featuring music from the likes of Barbra Streisand, Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland.
Described as 'The Full Monty meets Priscilla, Queen of the Desert', the comedy show tells the story of three men: Doug the DJ, Colin the barman and Phil the bouncer. This is a night out that ladies won't want to miss – there'll be dancing in the aisles and unforgettable entertainment.
The comedy is strictly for adults, with strong language and content from the start.
Group booking is available; buy nine tickets and get a 10th free.

Put the date in your calendar
Stars bare all

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Mon to Sat, October 22-27
01892 530613

THE world-renowned stage show Calendar Girls has been bagged by the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells for later this year.
Since opening at Chichester Festival Theatre in 2008, Calendar Girls has been an unprecedented success, playing more than 100 sell-out weeks across the country.
It has become the most successful play to tour the UK, grossing more at the box office than the smash-hit film of the same name, with ticket sales in excess of £25 million.
The production features Birds Of A Feather's Lesley Joseph, EastEnders' Kacey Ainsworth, Emmerdale's Deena Payne and Hi-De-Hi actress Ruth Madoc.
Tickets are priced from £18.50-£29.50.

Liquid laughs
Al Murray's pub landlord

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Wed and Thu, June 20-21
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

AL MURRAY will be serving up a new pint of comedy as he brings his new stand-up show to Folkestone's Quarterhouse for a two-date stop.
Best known as his loudmouth alter-ego The Pub Landlord, Murray has become one of the most recognisable comedians in the UK.
Having had his own TV show as well as enjoying regular appearances on the panel circuit and a memorable stint in Hell's Kitchen, Murray is as popular as ever.
New show The Only Way Is Epic" will see the irrepressible innkeeper serving up his premier brew of ale-inspired acumen and bar-room buffoonery.
Tickets are priced at £15 and on sale now.

Handel's Messiah
The Merry Opera Co

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Sunday, April 29, at 3pm
0845 2626263
info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

AFTER its sell-out production of La Traviata in Broadstairs last month, Kent-based The Merry Opera Company will perform its moving and unusual staged production of Handel's Messiah.
The group tends to do things a little differently, moving away from traditions such as static soloists and huge choirs reading music. Instead, the show features a cast of just 12 singers and a lot more stage direction.
The production is expected to be of high quality, following the highly-rated La Traviata performances that attracted opera fans from across the county.
Tickets cost £10 in advance and £12 on the day.

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Make a splash with your own hot tub

FEW people would disagree that sinking into a tub of warm water is the best way to relax – and that is why hot tubs remain one of the top choices for people looking to add luxury to their home.

The Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater, will be devoting a section to hot tubs and swim spas, with technology that makes them easier than ever to maintain.

Show stands will be run by one of Britain's largest and most successful companies, The Pool & Spa Company, with experts on hand to show you how hydrotherapy hot tubs and swim spas work and offer advice on sizes and installation.

"A hot tub or spa is more than just an additional luxury in your home – it's part of a healthy focused lifestyle," said Nick James, event director for All About Brands, the company behind the show.

The Pool & Spa Company has won several national and European awards, including the Hydropool European Retailer Of The Year 2011, a 2010 UK Customer Service Award.

Its products range from the world's only self-clean hot tubs and swim-spas (endless pools), in-ground and indoor pool and leisure complexes, gazebos, cabins and buildings.

It also supplies and fits above-ground wooden, metal and splasher pools, saunas and steam rooms.

Joint venture leaves firms with warm glow of success

A PROJECT to cut residents' energy bills by almost 40 per cent has helped housing association AmicusHorizon and Swale Heating scoop a big national award.

The two companies joined forces to enter the Housing Innovation Awards 2012 and are celebrating winning the accolade for Most Innovative Refurbishment Project.

The winning entry involved a £3.8 million project to retrofit 100 homes with the latest technological eco-measures at Rushenden on the Isle of Sheppey.

Annual savings of some £500 per household are promised, a saving of almost 40 per cent on average fuel bills of £1,300.

Victoria Benson, regional asset director Kent for AmicusHorizon, said: "We're passionate about this exciting international project. Retrofit is all about reducing household bills, saving energy and reducing CO_2 emissions.

"Working with several specialist contractors, including Swale Heating, we have installed a range of measures and empowered residents to save even more energy by giving them practical skills.

"We chose Rushenden because it's an area facing economic challenges and fuel poverty, with three-quarters of its residents on either full or partial housing benefit.

"The four-year project started in 2010 and is backed by funding secured from the EU. The results will be shared with partners in England and Europe."

Swale Heating is a key partner in the scheme and the award win is a big boost during the company's 40th-anniversary celebrations this year.

SAVING: Each home could save £500 on fuel bills

Matthew Edwards, sales director, said: "We were up against tough competition in the final, but I knew that the strong partnership between us and AmicusHorizon made us a real contender.

"We are celebrating a major landmark in our company's development and success in these prestigious national awards is a fitting accolade for all we stand for."

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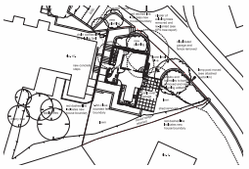

WANTED IN KENT

Small single building plot with planning permission for a detached house of approximately 2,500 sq ft within walking distance to shops
Budget £350,000

West Malling - Guide Price £400,000
Single plot with planning to demolish the existing property and replace with a new 5 bed detached house of approx. 2,700 sq ft

Bromley - Offers Invited
A Grade II listed building with planning for office use with 15 rooms and large showroom and parking, suitable for other uses STP

Lamberhurst Quarter - To be sold via Auction
A 6 bay period barn with planning for conversion to a 3,500 sq ft dwelling set in grounds of approx. 0.25 acre

WANTED NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Site with planning or potential for either one or two detached houses within a 15 mile radius of Tunbridge Wells
Budget £600,000-£1million

Minster - Guide Price £70,000
Plot measuring approximately 200' x 45' (max) which has had planning in the past to be sold with freehold of the adjacent flats

Barming - £205,000
Single plot with planning for a detached house of approximately 2,500 sq ft with double garage and views over the river Medway and beyond

West Kingsdown - £100,000 for a quick sale
Single plot with planning for a detached 2 storey house circa 1,700 sq ft situated on the London Road in the popular village of West Kingsdown

WANTED NEAR SEVENOAKS

Single building plot in rural area set in grounds of at least 1 acre and with views over countryside and planning for a detached house of approx 3,500 sq ft

Orpington - Offers Invited
Former pub with potential to convert into apartments or to redevelop the entire site, available unconditionally or subject to planning

St Mary Hoo - Offer ieo £900,000
Existing dwelling with detached property with holiday use and a barn with several acres of paddocks available unconditionally or STP

Rochester - Offers Invited
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FIRST DRIVE

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Price: £16,490
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Best rival: Mini

Herbie rides again as VW's new Beetle echoes original charm

VOLKSWAGEN'S original 1938 Beetle went on to sell 21.5 million units and be assembled in umpteen countries apart from Germany – but it was far from perfect.

However, in an era when people were pleased to have an affordable and distinctive car, it was a surefire winner.

When VW revived the look in the late 90s, though, we ended up with another Beetle far from perfect – in an era flooded with affordable cars.

After the initial nostalgic euphoria, many people realised the New Beetle just didn't look right. Sure the Herbie shape was there and even the vestiges of the original's running boards, but cabin space was wasted by a massive fascia and dashboard, while rear seating, headroom and boot space was piffling.

And somebody decided to add a flower vase to the fascia. Some say it was a penholder, but most people stuck a flower in it and that caused men to avoid buying the car, which was dropped in 2010.

The belated all-new replacement has reverted to the name Beetle, plain and simple – and distancing it from its flower-power predecessor.

The new-generation car doesn't need gimmicks, anyway, though VW-dealers will offer customising add-ons like those other retro stars, the Mini and Fiat 500.

It looks more like the original – again we get an echo of running boards – but there's more of a coupé look like the 1948 original Porsche, the 356, giving it unisex appeal.

Built on the latest Golf platform, it also handles properly and hints at potential hot models to come – a Beetle GTI perhaps?

If the exterior is cool yet retro, the cabin is a great partner; in this car, areas of exposed painted metal are a homage to the original – as is the flip-down glovebox lid – rather than corner-cutting, especially since the materials elsewhere are typically robust and quality VW.

The cabin is more practical this time; rear headroom is naturally restricted by the swooping roofline, but it doesn't feel claustrophobic, even if it is a four-seater.

The only black mark is the elasticated door pocket straps; retro perhaps, but they make it too easy to stuff something in the pocket only to see it exit through the gap below the strap.

In keeping with the sportier image, the entry-level engine is a turbocharged 105PS (104bhp) 1.2-litre petrol with VW's auto/manual DSG box.

Most people will be happy, as it should deliver an average mpg in the mid-40s. It's not speedy, but the engine revs satisfyingly and that gearbox is great for auto-changes in town or smooth manual shifts.

Diesels and a 2.0-litre petrol are in the pipeline, but I also liked the livelier 160PS (158bhp) 1.4-litre petrol engine at launch, which comes with a six-speed manual box.

BACK AT THE START: VW's new-look Beetle does away with the quirkiness of the previous model and is a return to the styling that made it one of the most popular cars in the world

DON'T LIKE

... those door straps, but there's not much to dislike about this latest incarnation of a classic – especially now the flower vase is gone.

NOT SURE

... the car yet has the power options it needs to distance itself from its effete predecessor, but the omens are good for a future Beetle GTI.

REALLY LIKE

... the more harmonious use of the original shape with a just a hint of Porsche coupé. It drives well and should get male buyers back onside.

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(T&C's below)

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101**

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051**

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTM older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049**

TASHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047**

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135**

YVONNE professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111**

SANDY slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227**

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205**

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203**

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201**

KATHY 49, seeking male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389362**

48YR old female, slim, looking for tall Knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348**

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

WARM hearted woman, 48, seeks man with GSOH, late 40's to early 50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380277**

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041**

SEXY black beauty Lucy, 33, WLTM clean solvent male for daytime fun together and mutual spoiling. Cannot accommodate, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385347**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive naughty female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded naughty boy for fun times. Can be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

FRAN early 60's, long dark hair, green eyes, seeks guy 52-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385769**

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655**

TARA charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383121**

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351**

ATTRACTIVE white male, 38, seeks black/mixed race/Asian female, 26-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387317**

48YR old male, own business, medium build, average looks but big heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387313**

ANDREW 53, 5ft 8ins, slim, likes music, nights out, looking for female 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390094**

SINGLE dad, 6ft 1ins, forgotten what life is, help! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540**

Men Seeking

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DEREK 47, loving, caring, seeks black lady to build LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390782**

MALE 44, seeking female, 27-47, must like pubs, tv, dvds, sport, nights in, walks, cycling, swimming etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390772**

MALE 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746**

6FT male, 38, dark hair, brown eyes, likes salsa, gardening, swimming, seeks female, 38-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390700**

32YR old male, seeks understanding female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390696**

JOE 60, looking for attractive female, 40-55 with GSOH for lunch dates, socialising and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390686**

53YR old male, seeks similar female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389469**

56YR old easygoing male, tactile, seeks lady, 48-65 who can handle a hot blooded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389367**

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

GOOD looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

TOM 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169**

MALE 51, seeks attractive 40-50's female with GSOH for friendship and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383851**

ED 57, smart, GSOH, likes cooking, DIY, computer games, travel, looking for female for LTR and to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383839**

GOOD looking male, seeks female for fun times, leading to possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389190**

EDUCATED professional man seeks interesting lady, 60 plus for laughter, good company, conversation and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383549**

MALE 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490**

STEVE 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476**

TONY 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim-medium build, outgoing, seeks female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468**

DAVID 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

57YR old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447**

MALE 56, broadminded, passionate, easygoing, seeks lady, 48-65 wanting, passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388417**

GENUINE sincere male, 50, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, fun loving, good company, seeks female to rediscover a full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385631**

Gay Seeking

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465**

ASSERTIVE guy looking for TV/CD for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390130**

JOHN 61, CD, looking for similar male for fun and pleasure, 55 plus preferred. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390118**

BRIAN 58 looking for male of similar age or older. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390100**

ROB 40, slim, professional, likes CD, looking for daytime meets with similar male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390002**

40YR old male, 5ft 11ins, slim, fit, likes outdoors, seeks sub guy for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389802**

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MOTORING

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Coupe with grace executed in style

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FEW cars win plaudits when simply parked up, but the original 2005-10 Mercedes-Benz CLS four-door coupe was one of those rarities.

Having fallen for the car's swooping lines, it wouldn't have mattered to would-be buyers if it had handled like a sofa, with none of the comforts, though it was just as much a star on the move.

So fans may have viewed early images of this icon's replacement with trepidation; lacking the original's unbroken crease line from front wheel arch to tail, the new CLS looked a bit lumpy... less fluid.

Familiarity modifies that though, and there is a compensating aggression about the styling now, while the front is a marked improvement; after a week with the car and many admiring comments, I reckon it's just as much a head turner as its forebear.

The original created a sensation at a time when the once conservative German premium marque had already rocked the industry with some off-the-wall designs.

And though it proved a good seller and halo car for M-B, few rivals managed to attack it properly: VW's CC series is a cheaper equivalent, but lacks such badge cachet, while the recent Audi A7 offers racy looks too, plus a hatchback, but does that feature make it less prestigious than the Merc? Closest in looks and on-road presence, though, is probably the Jaguar XF.

In short, the Merc doesn't have much to rival it as a luxury four-seat, four-door gran turismo, although upmarket versions of its donor model – the Merc E-Class – might also be in the mix for some buyers.

The CLS is well-made and well-appointed, as you would rightly expect for a car starting at £46,860, but the eye-opener is quite how well key models perform versus the fuel they consume for their size.

MERCEDES-BENZ CLS 350 CDI SPORT: PRICE £53,495

COUPE DE GRACE: The new CLS looks different to its predecessor but it is sure to wow drivers

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£170/year
Best rival:	Jaguar XF

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Even the 202bhp four-cylinder 2.1-litre diesel 250CDI is claimed to crack 62mph in just 7.5 seconds; our £53,495 263bhp V6 3.0-litre 350 CDI Sport model takes 6.2 seconds, yet these models are capable of a combined fuel consumption of 54.3 and 46.3mpg respectively – they also attract a relatively modest 18 per cent Benefit in Kind tax (BiK).

But then they do both wear M-B's Blue-Efficiency eco-branding, though this is overshadowed on the 350CDI Sport by big 19-inch AMG alloys and other accoutrements from M-B's famous sports styling house.

Of course, if you need livelier performance there are V6 and V8 petrol versions, including the £81,145 63 AMG flagship, but the fuel and BiK costs may be prohibitive even at this level of ownership.

Whatever the engine, it will be mated with a seven-speed automatic that is seamless in auto and allows smooth manual changes too via paddles mounted behind the steering wheel.

Would you want to? Hopefully, for the CLS is a sure-footed rear wheel drive beast that lives up to its coupe billing, cornering with a flat stance that will please keen drivers, even if the speed-weighted steering can feel a bit light at times.

Passengers won't mind it either judging by the supple yet precise sports suspension fitted to our car – a standard suspension and air suspension is also available, depending on the model.

Comfort levels inside are top-notch with well-shaped leather seats, though bear in mind that this is a strict four-seater, even if the rear pair are spoiled for space.

For this really is a beautiful car for four on a weekend getaway, helped by a big boot capable of swallowing all reasonable luggage.

So, put away any misgivings about losing the spirit of the original CLS – its successor has delivered the 'coupe de grace' with just as much cool.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Plug-in Prius is switched on

TOYOTA has raised the stakes in the hybrid race by offering its pioneering Prius model with a plug-in variant, priced at £27,895 after adding the Government's £5,000 grant for lower-emission vehicles.

The plug-in facility allows owners and businesses to top-up the car's batteries overnight or at the office to increase electric-only operation, thereby cutting fuel costs and emissions.

Volvo's airbag for pedestrians

VOLVO'S eagerly-anticipated mid-size V40 premium hatchback arrives in late summer (from £19,745) and includes a diesel with emissions low enough to escape road tax, and an official combined fuel consumption of 78.5mpg.

This version also has the best Benefit in Kind taxation levels of any car in its class, while the range features the world's first pedestrian airbag.

New venture has six appeal

MAZDA has launched a high-spec special edition Mazda6 (from £21,000) available in hatchback or estate bodystyles.

The Venture includes TomTom navigation and integrated Bluetooth plus distinctive smoked alloys, sports grille, half-leather seats – heated in front – privacy glass and distinctive colours.

Dartford-based Mazda UK is sweetening the deal with zero and 5.9 per cent APR finance.

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2001 (Y) LANDROVER FREELANDER ES with all usual extras, well serviced vehicle with leather interior, 1798cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,895**

2004 (04) HYUNDAI GETZ GSi 3 door Hatchback, metallic silver, one owner from new with all usual extras, 1086cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1495**

2001 (51) RENAULT LAGUNA Dynamique Turbo Diesel 5 door Hatchback, metallic grey, 2 lady owners from new, with all usual extras, 1870cc turbo diesel engine with manual transmission **£1495**

2001 (51) FORD MONDEO LX 5 door Hatchback, metallic silver, lovely lower than average mileage example with service history and all usual extras, 1798cc petral engine with manual transmission **£1295**

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1997 (P) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTi 5 door Hatchback, black, well looked after vehicle with all usual extras, 1781cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,095**

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MOTORING

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New-era Lexus gets county premieres

LEXUS dealers in Kent have previewed the Japanese premium brand's new model – one set to change the face of its line-up.

It's the latest generation Lexus GS mid-range executive saloon, to rival models like the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class, and wearing what is tipped to be the new corporate nose of the Lexus line-up.

Existing and prospective Lexus customers in the county got an early look at the newcomer – which is due in June – when Motorline group dealerships Lexus Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells held VIP evenings last Friday and on Monday respectively, attracting almost 400 people.

Both events featured a jazz band, magician and prize draw to entertain guests, who were also given an expert tour of the car to explain s ignificant new developments.

Much was made of Lexus value: high-spec but aggressively priced compared with rivals.

Innovations include the standard-fit 12.3-inch full-colour LED screen – the world's widest in-car multimedia display – coated, self-cleaning side front windows for clearer and safer vision via the door mirrors.

All new GS models also come with heated and ventilated seats and increased boot space to rival the opposition: 522 litres, or 465 on hybrid models due to slight intrusion by the battery array. A top-notch 17-speaker Mark Levinson multimedia system is also available.

Paul Stapylton, brand manager for the two Kent sites, said: "Prices start from an attractive £32,995, bringing a lot of car for the money, but the other great thing about this new GS is that we have four distinct versions to appeal to a wide cross-section of customers.

"At the entry point there's the affordability of the GS250 petrol option, but there's also the GS450 petrol-electric hybrid drive, and we also have smart F Sport versions with either powertrain. It makes us confident that we can raise our GS sales by quite a margin compared with the outgoing car, and that means we can build on a successful year at our two sites, following the launch of our all-new entry car, the CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

"That car delivered many conquest customers who wanted to drive eco but stay premium – many existing customers had already bought into that with our RX450h hybrid SUV, our other big-seller over the past year."

FIRST SIGHT: Above: Lexus guests get their first look at the new GS model. Left: Lexus Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells brand manager Paul Stapylton introduces the car to an appreciative audience

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Amount of Credit	£19,201.00	On the Road Price*	£19,500.00		Representative 2.0% APR

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE

The Alfa Giulietta, coupé looks and 5 door practicality can now be yours for just £299 per month, with a tiny £299 deposit. If this isn't tempting enough you'll also receive 3 years complimentary servicing. Cars must be registered before 30th June.

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Giulietta

Model shown Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Lusso at £19,500 OTR including Ghiaccio White special paint at £490. Offer valid on selected Alfa Giulietta models. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 53.3 mpg (10.8 – 5.3 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.3 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 177 – 114 g/km.

*ON THE ROAD PRICE INCLUDES 3 YEAR ALFACARE DEALER WARRANTY, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENSE, VEHICLE FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND VAT. FIGURES AND PRICES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT. OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS, A GUARANTEE AND/OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. WITH ALFA ROMEO PREFERENZA YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO RETURN THE VEHICLE AND NOT PAY THE FINAL PAYMENT, SUBJECT TO THE VEHICLE NOT HAVING EXCEEDED AN AGREED ANNUAL MILEAGE (A CHARGE OF 6P PER MILE FOR EXCEEDING 6,000 MILES PER ANNUM IN THIS EXAMPLE) AND BEING IN GOOD CONDITION. ALFA ROMEO FINANCIAL SERVICES, PO BOX 4465, SLOUGH, SL1 0RW. AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY. †3 YEARS COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE PLAN/30,000 MILES – OFFER APPLIES TO VEHICLES REGISTERED FROM 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2012. SERVICE PLAN INCLUDES SCHEDULED SERVICING ONLY OCCURRING WITHIN 3 YEAR PERIOD AND 30,000 MILE LIMIT AND EXCLUDES WEAR AND TEAR ITEMS, THE SERVICE PLAN CAN ONLY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALFA ROMEO PREFERENZA PCP AND HP OR CASH PURCHASE THROUGH RETAIL SALES ONLY, AND EXCLUDES FLEET & PERSONAL CONTRACT HIRE. OFFER CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS.

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Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	60 Monthly Payments
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Total Amount Payable	Flat Rate	Representative
£13,152.20	5.75%	12.4%

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11 61	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0CDTI SRI 160 AUTO 5DR** 18,510 miles BLACK	£17,495
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11 11	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE Nav 5dr Auto** 6,278 miles SILVER LAKE	£14,250
11 11	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite Nav [160] 5dr Auto** 16,078 miles BLACK	£15,995
11 11	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX SRi Nav [160] 5** 11,500 miles TECH GREY	£14,750
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech & Tech Line models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Corsa S or Limited Edition. Offers available for registrations between 03.04.12 and 02.07.12. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution. Metallic paint available at an extra cost. First year insurance offer available on Corsa S and Limited Edition models only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 22 -75 (motor policy only) and provides a £1000 contribution for drivers aged between 19-21. Offer not available for drivers below 19 years old. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other terms and conditions apply. This offer is valid until 2nd July 2012.

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61 **ASTRA 1.6 GTC SRi TBO 3dr,** Carbon Flash	£17,995
61 **MERIVA 1.4 EXCL TURBO,** Silver Lake	£14,995
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61 **INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Olympic White	£16,495
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58 **CORSA CLUB AUTO 1.4 5dr,** Star Silver	£7,275
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60 **NEW ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5dr,** White	£9,495
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11 **ASTRA 1.8 SRi X PACK 1.8 3dr,** Technical Grey	£11,995
61 **ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5dr,** Silver Lake	£13,995

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Until then, only disabled people who could drive themselves received any Government help with transport.

This was usually a blue three-wheeler that was notoriously unstable and could only seat one – and therefore not much use for families.

With Motability, though, the disabled were able to use their Government Mobility allowance towards a vehicle of their choice – also removing the stigma of the blue 'invacar'.

Since then, some three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs have been sourced through Motability – a Government-backed charity – allowing disabled people to go shopping, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, do sport, give a family member a lift, or go on holiday – all things the vast majority of the motoring public take for granted.

Some users have even been able to take up further education or pursue better jobs and careers, having been liberated hugely by their new-found mobility.

The scheme was modified earlier this year, though, to both streamline the procedures and prevent some misuse that had crept into the system.

The key points were:

• The list of cars available has been streamlined.

• Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's address, though special circumstances will still be considered.

• Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less, while those under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles where they live with the disabled customer.

ON THE ROAD: Clockwise from top left... all types of vehicle are available to Motability, from practical family hatchbacks like the Mazda3 to funky crossovers like the Mitsubishi ASX and spacious MPVs such as the elegant Seat Alhambra

Models featured: (1) Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with £199 advance payment. (2) Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 in Aqua Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. (3) Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Continental Silver metallic paint with £299 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) – 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 231 – 97 g/km.

MOTABILITY

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Motability: did you know?

IF you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Up to two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them. The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as for a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of about 2,000 models of car
- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 mileage allowance over three years.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with: speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage, and seating and access.

CHOICES: Three of a kind – cars that are spacious yet both compact and easy to manage... clockwise from top left are Kia Rio, Hyundai ix20 and Honda Jazz

Car dimensions vary. Seat height, door-opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you. The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car.

Some 600,000 customers choose Motability and 97 per cent say that they would recommend the scheme to their friends.

Models featured: (1) Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 in Aqua Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. (2) Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Continental Silver metallic paint with £299 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO_2 Emissions 139 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) for the range of cars shown are: Urban: 34.0 (8.3) – 64.2 (4.4), Extra Urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined: 42.8 (6.6) – 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions are 158 – 103 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and exclusions. Available between 1 April and 30 June 2012, while stocks last.

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Please contact your local Mazda Motability specialist for more information:

Canterbury Mazda
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01227 783400 www.canterbury-mazda.co.uk

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda2 1.5 5dr TS² Automatic: Urban 34.9 (8.1). Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3). Combined 44.8 (6.3). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 145.

Motability sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles ordered between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012. °Nil Advance Payment is available on specific Mazda2 models. Advance payments on the Motability Car Scheme for those individuals receiving the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance. Subsequent rental payments are made by the diversion of this component of the living allowance. Additional charges may be payable, including excess mileage, damage excess and early termination charges. *Motability does not apply to all Mazda vehicles and applies to upgraded Mazda2 only, please ask your specialist dealer for more details. Model shown: Mazda2 1.5 5dr TS² Automatic. OTR price £10,495. Model features optional metallic paint (£460). On the road prices include, number plates, delivery, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Advance payment prices are correct at time of going to press and subject to change without notice.

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i30 1.6 ACTIVE AUTO £NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT

i30 1.6 ACTIVE CRDi MANUAL £299 ADVANCE PAYMENT

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ix35 1.6 STYLE £299 ADVANCE PAYMENT

ix35 1.7 CRDi STYLE £499 ADVANCE PAYMENT

ix20 1.4 CLASSIC £NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT

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FOOTBALL

Angel ace's Palace send-off as he flips out of game and rolls into gymnastics

By Greg Miles
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LIFE after retirement is a common dilemma for sportsmen and women around the world, but that dilemma is made all the more serious when the end of your career is forced upon you as it was for Scott Gooding.

The Tonbridge Angels defender thought he had made the comeback from a serious knee injury, only to break down again just three games into his return over a year ago.

But after going through the heartache of realising his boyhood dream was ending, he has found a new direction in life - gymnastics.

While sidelined with injury as his team mates battle it out in the Blue Square South, the highest division the club has ever reached, he was busy studying so he could join his fiancee in opening up a new gymnastics club.

It's not the traditional road former non-league stars have taken, and Gooding admits his team mates delivered a certain amount of ribbing.

"I have been teaching them the forward rolls, and cartwheels," he said. "They have given me a bit of stick.

"We are going to open a gymnastics club and we have found a building that needs a refurbishment. It's a case of starting from scratch."

Before he starts taking lessons, there is the small matter of a testimonial to get out of the way, which will see the Angels take on Gooding's first club, Crystal Palace.

He is still in touch with a number of former team mates from Selhurst Park, including their current manager Dougie Freedman, whose children are taught gymnastics by his fiancee.

An Eagles XI will take on the Angels at Longmeadow on Wednesday in a 7.45pm kick off, thanks to the efforts of manager Tommy Warrilow and team mate Robbie Kemba whose dad Steve is a scout for the Championship side.

Gooding started at Palace as an eight-year-old and made two first team appearances, one in a friendly against Bastia in France, and his competitive debut as a sub in a Boxing Day clash at Millwall.

"For them to pull something like this out of the bag is unbelievable," he said. "They look after you really well at Tonbridge. It should hopefully create a good crowd, and will be a good send off.

"Everybody has been absolutely unbelievable."

> **"I have been teaching my team mates forward rolls, and cartwheels...they have given me a bit of stick."**
>
> SCOTT GOODING, FORMER ANGEL

It wasn't an easy decision for the 30-year-old to hang up his boots, but doctors told him if he had a recurrence of the injury the only option would be to break his leg in order to fix it, as he had already has his knee ligaments replaced once.

"It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make," he said.

"I was really enjoying it, I was hoping to keep on going for a good few years at this level. It's hard to take.

"It's been a hard, hard time mentally for me.

"I don't feel like a different person, but it's made me a lot stronger mentally. It was really hard to go through."

When he got the news he felt there was only one decision to take.

"There's no point chancing it going again," he said. "I'm walking fine, running, cycling, I can do anything in a straight line, it's the twisting and turning part that's the problem."

Gooding signed for the Angels in 2006 from Gravesend & Northfleet, and left to join Fisher in November 2007, but returned to Longmead in 2008, where he was crowned player of the season for the 2008/09 season.

He also played for AFC Hornchurch and Crawley Town.

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

NEW CHALLENGE: Scott Gooding (centre in blue) has a testimonial against Crystal Palace

Picture: BRANDS HATCH

REVVED UP: Steven Powell in action last season

MOTORSPORT

Sibling rivalry revs up as Brands gets set to welcome truck racing champs

THERE can't be many sports in the world where you have three brothers performing at the top level.

But British Truck Racing is one that does with the Powell brothers, John, Graham, and Steven, who all hail from Kent.

This weekend John who lives in Herne Bay and Steven, from West Kingsdown, will be at Brands Hatch for the second round of their respective classes in the Delphi British Truck Racing Championship, while Graham will be busying himself at the European Championship this season.

Steven who during his working week is busy pulling pints and working the tables at his pub the Portobello Inn, is making his first step into the A class this season.

Although all the trucks are restricted to 100mph, the change in class represents a jump in engine power from 600hp to 950hp, which he admits has been making him a bit nervous.

"I have had a few sleepless nights about it," he said. "It's going to be a learning curve.

"The aim is to get it up to scratch this season, and go for the championship the season after.

"Brands Hatch is probably the most stressful one because we have so many people come and watch us. I don't get nervous at any other races."

Steven made the leap into racing after his brother Graham challenged him several years ago.

"My dad used to do it when it first started about 28 years ago and then my brother Graham bought one," he said.

"We used to go along to race meetings and then we were sat in here (Portobello Inn) one night and he dared me to give it a go.

"So I bought a truck and I've been doing it for about five years now and it's been brilliant fun.

"I never expected to end up as Class B Champion. The first lorry I had wasn't the quickest so I bought my brother's old one and we had three really good seasons before we nicked it last season.

"My sponsors have bought me a new truck and a new engine and now all we're waiting for is a new clutch. With everything we've done, fingers crossed it will all fall into place.

"This could be a testing weekend for us, but hopefully we'll have it all nipped in the bud for when we come back (at Brands Hatch) in November."

CRICKET

Clifford cautious as Kent seek to build on good start

By Greg Miles
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THE notion that money doesn't buy success is one that fellow sports clubs would do well to take note of.

It's a realistic approach to business that Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford has been championing during the two years of his tenure at the St Lawrence, and one that he hopes isn't lost on the supporters.

And even though Jimmy Adams' side has started in a positive manner after a draw against Yorkshire, and a resounding victory over Northamptonshire, Clifford is wary of setting targets.

"I think bold statements of ambition are easy to make and often just wrong," he said. "I don't think money buys success, it's not all about your spending power, it comes back to the individual players wanting to be the best players, and trying to achieve that," he said.

"I think there is a danger in setting a goal. Every club is trying to get promoted and they are trying to have a run in the knockout competitions."

If supporters haven't already seen, they will no doubt notice big changes at the ground as Kent host Gloucestershire in their first home game of the season this week.

The housing project is in its final stages, while the Sainsbury's Local store opened several weeks ago, and the administration block which will be home to the new club offices is weeks away from completion.

But some supporters haven't welcomed parts of the project.

"We will always get people saying this is outrageous, but you have got to see the whole context," he said. "We have to be realistic, the housing has funded the redevelopment and Sainsbury's is a long term tenant.

"The Sainsbury's site is there and it's fairly visible, it's not like it's 20ft high neon lights on the front gate.

"We had to find solutions to running the club. It's not easy finding corporate sponsors, and getting people to commit to a season long membership, it has been hard, it is the same for everybody."

Picture: ADY KERRY

WELL GROUNDED: Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford will not make season predictions

FOOTBALL

Hythe hoping to claim third scalp in Kent Senior Cup final

HYTHE Town are gunning for glory against Dartford in their first Kent Senior Cup final for decades.

Scott Porter's side haven't been in the competition, let alone anywhere near reaching the final in recent years.

But this season they have surpassed all expectations knocking out Blue Square Premier, and Blue Square South sides Ebbsfleet United, and Dover on their way to the final.

And a third high profile clash for Hythe against another Blue Square South side doesn't phase Porter as he insists the pressure is on the opposition.

"Obviously it's going to be a tough game, they are two leagues above us and flying high," he said. "We have had a couple of good scalps on the way.

"The difference in wage structure and players is massive, but it was against Dover and Ebbsfleet. We have got nothing to lose and they have got everything to lose.

"We haven't been in it for 20 odd years because of the league we have been in, so it's the first attempt in those years and we are in the final.

"Our aim was to finish as high as we could in our first season in the league, and we have held our own.

"It has been a great season, we are proud of what we have done."

The game kicks off at 7.45pm on Tuesday at Dartford's Princes Park ground.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SCOTT PORTER: No pressure

MOTORSPORT

McLaren work helping to boost Jackson's career

MOTORBASE'S Mat Jackson believes his work with McLaren away from the touring car scene is helping to improve his career.

Jackson who races for the Kent based team had a mixed round at Donington last weekend, where he took the first race, and finished third in the second, and looked to have rounded off a brilliant weekend with a win in the third.

But after finishing first his result was later excluded after officials discovered his car had exceeded the permitted turbo boost limits.

Jackson has conceded that rules are rules and is keen to move on to the rest of the season.

"There is a long way to go, a lot of things can happen," he said.

Between rounds, as he is this weekend, before travelling to Thruxton at the end of the week, he works as a development driver for McLaren and was this week testing their new road car, while also working closely with the F1 setup.

And it's that kind of exposure and driving practice which he feels can help his season ahead.

"It certainly hasn't hindered me," he said. "It's certainly something that has helped in a lot of ways.

"It's good to keep your mind alive and sharp, which you cannot always do on a race weekend.

"I have been doing it now for four years. In a way it becomes just another car. Not many times do you get to drive around in a car that has got the prestige of McLaren.

"Some days you do think 'is this really happening?'.

"Everyday is different, it's interesting and great to be part of the project."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

WINNER: Jackson on podium twice

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH FRED ATKINS

Heroism is not what it was

"IT'S possible you never expected to read the words "Dermot O'Leary" and "startling insight" in the same article, let alone the same paragraph, but earlier this year he produced a genuinely revealing interview with Thierry Henry on the concept of heroism.

As a television presenter who normally deals exclusively in the vacuous, O'Leary confessed that while Henry was his hero, he was at an age where he couldn't worship footballers any more, and the player agreed saying statues should be for war heroes.

Yet if you're of a certain age and follow Ashford, Dover, Hythe, Folkestone, Maidstone, or Margate the chances are that a former Royal Marine called Frank Ovard will be one of your heroes.

I've no idea what his military record was but as a footballer he was a complete one-off, capable of dribbling his way around an entire team.

He had the talent to play professionally, but his only spell in the Football League ended in failure because Gillingham wanted him to conform to their system, which was a bit like hiring Jimi Hendrix and constricting him to play three chords.

Yet what he's arguably most remembered for is an ability to "earn" penalties.

As soon as he entered the penalty area Ovard simply dragged one across the other and collapsed in a heap. He made Ashley Young look like Willem Defoe in the film Platoon, somehow staying on his feet even though he'd been shot so many times he looked like a garden sprinkler.

Ovard had a reputation and yet a staggering number of referees still awarded him penalties in his career.

What's striking now is that nobody ever seemed to mind. Young, like Henry, has been pilloried for diving and yet when Ovard hit the deck it only ever seemed to provoke knowing laughter from the team he was playing for and eye-rolling resignation from the opposition.

One reason is because he usually only played in front of a few hundred fans and while it's possible there might be some television footage of him locked in a vault somewhere, there's no readily available visual evidence - which sadly means there's also no footage of some of the great goals he scored.

Another is that although he dived he didn't compound the crime by furiously instructing the referee to send the innocent defender off.

Perhaps this is because he didn't take football that seriously (although it's said he once punched a hole through a wooden door after losing a Kent Senior Cup tie).

As the man himself once said, when reflecting on the end of his career: "I still went down. I just took longer to get up."

I can still admire great players but I'll never think of them in the way I thought of Ovard. And as I'm the same age as O'Leary that's probably just as well."

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